
廃墟少女
尚月地




Memories come rushing back in fragments.
What shocking truth awaits...
A girl captures another...
at the end of this maze!?
the ruins of an old factory
Haikyo Shoujo
廃墟少女
The Girl Amid the Ruins
尚月地
Tsukiji Nao



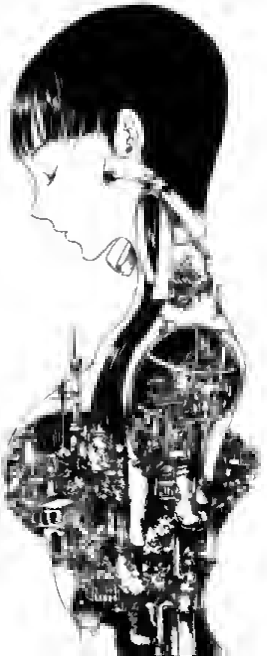
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廃墟少女

Haikyo Shoujo

尚月地
Yuekji Nao






The First of a Series of Short Stories About Destruction!
My childhood friend Momoka...
may have been delicate,
but she smiled a lot,
looking just like a doll.
Sometimes, though,
she would shoot...
a bone-chilling glare your way.
I never thought...
I would see the day when we would put our lives on the line...
just to look for something.
Haikyo Shojo
廃墟少女
The Girl in the Ruins
尚贝地
Nao Kaibuki


廃墟少女
Haikyo Shoujo


Stories about me are already spreading...
all over my new school
YOU KNOW THAT TOUGH GIRL?
REMEMBER THE FACTORY INCIDENT? IT WAS HER
FROM YEARS BACK?! NO KIDDING!
WHISPER
WHISPER
YEAH, I HEARD FROM A GIRL WHO WENT TO HER MIDDLE SCHOOL
DIDN'T SHE GET TRAPPED IN THAT OLD FACTORY...
FOR WHAT, FIVE DAYS?
THAT REMINDS ME THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE CROOK YET, HAVE THEY?
CREEPY
People are insensitive. I get that. I'm even *used* to it.
But...
RIGHT


EEK!
Shut up!
During the summer three years ago, I was trapped in the ruins of an old factory outside of town. That much is true
I managed to escape single-handedly five days later.
SLIP
SLIP
WHAT WAS THAT?
MUR MUR
SCARY
But, strangely, all I can remember from the whole experience is that some guy locked me up in there. That's it.
!
KAZE-KO!


I GOT DISCHARGED RECENTLY
HEY! WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE HOSPITAL?
IT'S TOO BAD WE ENDED UP IN DIFFERENT CLASSES
WAVE
MO-MOKA!
NOW MY FAMILY HAS ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT
Y-YEAH
REALLY? COOL!
PUNCH
Her father's business is going under.
OH...
HOSPITAL BILLS ARE SO RIDICULOUSLY HIGH.
She's always been fragile, even as a kid. She's been in and out of the hospital all her life.
It made things hard on her parents, I heard.


IT'S A SECRET FOR NOW!
SURE WHAT ABOUT?
LET YOUR MOTHER KNOW, OK?


What the heck?
...




HEY, KAZEKO
Momoka is mature for her age.
LET'S HAVE A SLEEPOVER AT MY HOUSE TODAY
Sometimes though, she gets this crazy look on her face.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU


I'LL BE FINE, MOM
MOMOKA INVITED ME OVER.
WHAT-EVER.
YEAH
I'M CRASHING AT HER PLACE, PERIOD!
BYE!
SHUT
My parents are a real pain.
SWING
WHAM!!!


blink
ugh
ARE YOU AWAKE, KAGEKO?
DOESN'T THIS PLACE BRING BACK MEMORIES? IT'S THE OLD FACTORY YOU WERE STUCK IN
sit
clink
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT?
THIS TIME, YOU'RE MY PRISONER
Hee hee.


SAY WHAT?!
GUESS WHAT
THEY'RE DEMOLISHING THIS PLACE IN THREE DAYS
SEE, THEY'VE PLACED DYNAMITE EVERYWHERE
THEY'RE GOING TO HIT THE DETONATOR FROM OUTSIDE AND BLOW UP THE FACTORY
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE I WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING YOU LEFT HERE
THREE YEARS AGO
YOU HAVE TO FIND IT WITHIN THAT TIME
OTHERWISE, BOTH OF US WILL DIE HERE
I FIGURED BEING HERE
WILL JOG YOUR MEMORY


MOMOKA! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE NOT... YOU'RE NOT SICK, ARE YOU?
EVEN WITH THOSE CHAINS, YOU CAN STILL WALK AROUND! HAVE FUN SEARCHING, KAY?
OK I'M SERIOUSLY NOT FOLLOWING HERE
I MEAN SERIOUS BUSINESS!
SNAP
I'M NOT STICKING AROUND!
dash
It is the old factory!
I need something to cut the chains with.
dash dash dash


I re-member...
this place!
GASP
What's this feel-ing?
TREMBLE
No!
pic
"
Oh, that's right!
KEEP IT DOWN!
NO! LET GO OF ME!
EEK!
Me and that guy were here three years ago!
And... there was another person with us!


Momoka!
She, too, was here back then!
Toast
ANYTHING RING A BELL?
YOU LOOK TIRED
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK?


THIS PLACE IS HUGE...
THERE'S EVEN A HAIR-DRESSER'S SALON INSIDE
IT'S LIKE A PLACE FOR KIDS TO PLAY MAKE-BELIEVE SHOULD BE FUN


WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT A WOMAN'S HAIR BEING HER GLORY IS BULL
YOUR HAIR AND BODY ARE JUST A CONTAINER OF YOUR SOUL
HOW PHILOSOPHICAL
AH, HA HA
BEING SICK NEARLY ALL MY LIFE HAS MADE ME THINK... A LOT.
HEY WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
HUH? WELL... SO WE CAN FIND OUR WAY OUT OF THIS MAZE-LIKE PLACE.


MAGE?
YOU'RE STILL TIED DOWN TO THE PAST, KAZEKO,
IN THE SENSE THAT YOU'RE TRAPPED IN THIS OLD FACTORY
I'M IN THE SAME BOAT AS YOU. TRAPPED
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE PROBABLY LIVING SOME OTHER GIRL'S LIFE


I'M TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER YOU
...!!
I was right...She was here that day.
BY THE PAST.
WE'RE BOUND TO-GETHER...


GOOD MORNING, KAZEKO! ARE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE? I'M SORRY I HAD TO TIE YOU UP THERE.
UGH
UGH
blink
Second day
I'M HURTING ALL OVER
I DON'T WANT YOU RUNNING OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
TEE HEE
I'VE ALREADY CALLED THE SCHOOL AND YOUR PARENTS
I MADE UP SOME STORY
LOOSEN


GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SEARCH TODAY!
'CAUSE TOMORROW THIS PLACE WILL BE BLOWN UP. AH HA HA!
Step on it!
QUID
DART
Now I can't help wondering...
what exactly happened here three years ago.
What should I do?
huff
huff
I can't remember anything new today.
Huh?
Was the flower-bed there before?


I've seen it before.
Back then.
Whe
I'm done for.
bat dump
I can see it!
I was here with him three years ago!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT OVER ME, BUT MY SISTER GOT SICK ...
MY FRIENDS WILL FIND ME AND KILL ME FOR SURE
Yeah! He was a criminal!
What I remembered yesterday... everything makes sense now!
If I'm not mistaken...
NO! LET GO OF ME!
Swing


WHAM
RUN, KAZEKO!
Momoka killed him!
Of course.
That's right.
They say they never found him.
But...
what happened to his body?
MOMOKA

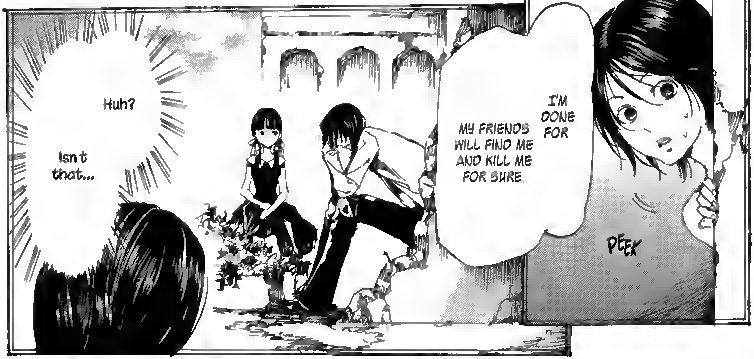

NO, NO, NO, KAZEKO YOU HAVE TO FIND THE WAY OUT OF THIS MAZE
IT'S RIGHT THERE, SEE?
I WANT TO FORGET THE REST
LET'S NOT DO THIS ANY-MORE
I RE-MEMBER NOW WHAT YOU DID THREE YEARS AGO
HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE THE SOUL?
TELL ME
I


But I do know one thing.
She's keeping this up until tomorrow.
I don't understand a word Momoka is saying.
THE FEELING OF BEING ALIVE
IT'S THE STRONG FIRE IN YOUR HEART
FOR ME


Now that I think about it, though, she's always been a mystery.
Always smiling, always charming.
Why is Momoka doing this?
What if I still don't remember much then?
Tomorrow's the last day.
Sometimes...
MY FAMILY MAKES ME SICK!
I'LL GO WITH YOU
WHAT?!
I WANT TO RUN AWAY! WHO'S WITH ME?
IF IT'S JUST FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, I'M NOT GOING
ONLY IF YOU MEAN IT, THOUGH


She didn't get that I said it for the heck of it.
I KNEW IT
H-HMPH! OF COURSE I DIDN'T MEAN IT!
REEL
She always had that intense look in her eyes.
I WISH WE COULD GO HUNT FOR TREASURE THOUGH!
rush
rush
What are you looking at right now, Momoka?
shut
That's...
Ooh! Should I go see what's in that old factory?


I've always wanted to know.
...me from three years ago!
Oh, yeah. I had a fight with Mom...
and ran away from home for a few days.
It was the fifth day
Whoa. This is so exciting.
Swing
Voices? From upstairs?
Did some kids get into this place?
Or...
Creep
Hmm
Hmm

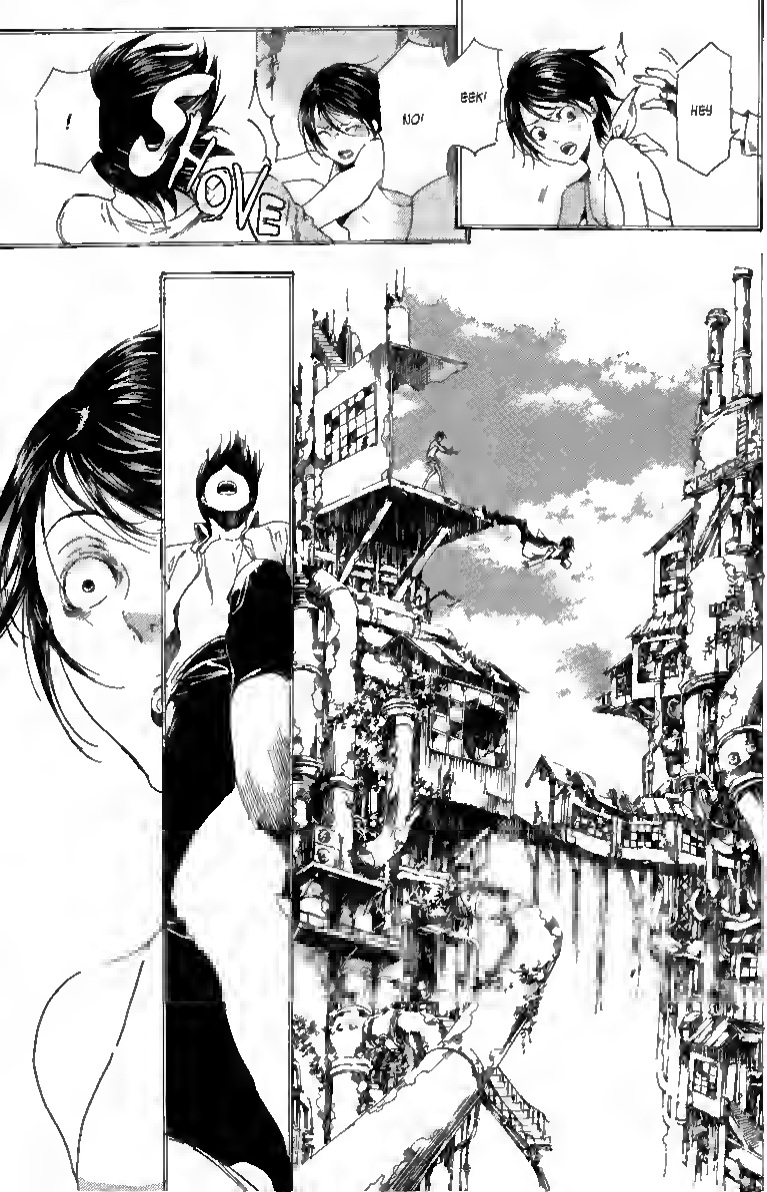

I'M DONE FOR
MY FRIENDS WILL FIND ME AND KILL ME FOR SURE...
PEEK
Huh?
Isn't that...


Mo-moka?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT OVER ME, BUT MY SISTER GOT SICK...
That guy looks kind of creepy. What if he's a criminal?
Now what? Should I go get some-one?
SNEAK


WHO'S THERE?!
RISE
RATTLE
Crap!
DASH


WH
AM
NO! LET GO OF ME!
WAH!
KEEP IT DOWN!
RUN, KAZEKO!
DART
WAIT UP! I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU!
WAH!
LEAP
UGH
RAISE


HEY!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
DASH
DASH
DASH
No!
No!
DASH
DASH
DASH
SWERVE
HEY!
CRUNCH
It's a dead end!


SHOVE
!
NO!
BEK!
HEY


THUD
Pitter
SPRING
NO! N-
KAZE-KO!
dash dash
NO!
NO!
I HEARD A LOUD NOISE WHAT HAP-PENED?
WH-WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO MOMOKA? I PUSHED HIM!


I...
I DON'T KNOW
SOME-WHERE AWFULLY HIGH
HUH?!
WHERE?!
HE MUST BE DEAD
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I WON'T TELL ANY-BODY
THAT GUY WORKED FOR AN UNDER-GROUND GANG
AND HE RAN OFF WITH HIS GANG'S MONEY
HE WAS THAT KIND OF GUY
AT THE START OF SUMMER BREAK,
I LEFT HOME TO STAY AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE
SHE LIVES FAR AWAY
I was passing by these ruins...
when I saw a person inside.


I couldn't resist peeking in.
He had a suitcase of money and jewelry in front of him. And then our eyes met.
Obviously, he couldn't let me get away with seeing that, so he caught me.
He made me call my family and my friend, and tell them I was all right.
That's why nobody knew what happened to me.
I'M GOING TO PUT ALL THIS BEHIND ME AND GO HOME
Yeah. I killed him.
After that, I ran home freaking out.


When Mom asked me where I had been, I was so out of it,
I
THIS GUY, HE LOCKED ME UP IN THE OLD FAC-TORY
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE
I forgot everything that hap-pened!
MO-MOKA
I RE-MEMBER NOW
WHAT I LEFT HERE
OH? THAT'S GREAT
LET'S GO LOOK FOR IT.

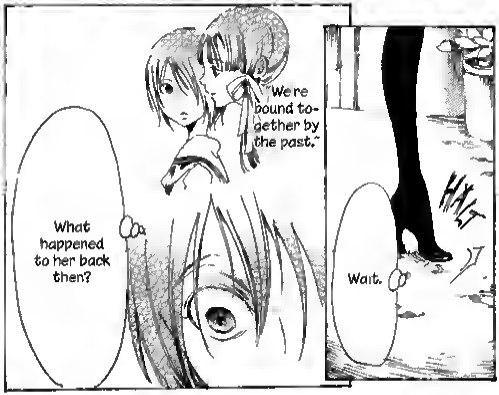

CLUTTER
RUMMAGE
THEY'LL DETONATE THE FACTORY AT 2 O'CLOCK
CLANK
CLANG
YOU DROPPED IT AROUND HERE?
YEAH
WE'VE RANSACKED THIS PLACE BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF IT
I'M POSITIVE THE BODY IS NOT HERE
HUH?
I SAW A GUY WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM ON TV
THEY SAID HE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT


I GUESSED AS MUCH HE WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THAT FALL...
AND GET AWAY
WHEN THE POLICE CAME TO SEARCH THIS PLACE AFTER THE FUSS YOU KICKED UP, THEY DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING, RIGHT?
AT LEAST, I DON'T THINK THEY DID
S-JUST WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
FOUND IT!
HUH?!
LOOK!
THIS IS IT!
THIS ORNAMENT!
HIS LOOT WAS WORTH A LOT OF MONEY,
BUT HE SAID THIS WAS THE MOST VALUABLE


JUST AS I EXPECTED
BUT IT MUST HAVE BOUNCED AWAY FROM THE IMPACT OF HIS FALL
HE HAD IT TIED AROUND HIS HAND ALL THE TIME,
I'LL BE RICH IF I SELL IT! THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING MYSELF GET BLOWN UP WITH THE FACTORY!
YES! I CAN LIVE WITH THIS!
OH
In the end,
"Hospital bills are so ridiculously high."
"Her father's business is going under"
..
What a downer.
Momoka was just being realistic.


Nobody knows when she'll get sick again.
I know that. But...
WHEN I SAW HIS DEATH IN THE NEWS,
I THOUGHT IT'D BE OK IF YOU REMEMBERED EVERYTHING.
AND THEY WERE GOING TO DESTROY THIS OLD PLACE
I COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A BETTER TIME
YOU'RE RIGHT. NOW MY PAST WON'T COME BACK TO HAUNT ME
HEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING BEFORE THE TIME WAS UP?
Ah, ha ha
I'D SKEDADDLE WITH YOU OF COURSE!
COME ON LET'S GET OUT OF HERE IT'S 30 MINUTES TO 2!
Y-YEAH


I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TREASURE-HUNTING WITH YOU!
TO GO ON AN ADVENTURE WE'D NEVER FORGET!
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
Momoka was laughing.


"We're bound together by the past."
What happened to her back then?
Wait.


When we got separated, I walked around some, and...


GUESS WHAT, KAZEKO.
I'LL TELL YOU MY SECRET.
DO YOU PROMISE TO KEEP IT A SECRET?


"Hey, Momoka."
There has to be...
Something!


I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM
IT'S A SECRET... I CAN'T TELL ANYONE


I WAS SORRY FOR HIM
HE SEEMED SO LONELY
BUT... HE STOLE TO SUPPORT HIS SISTER, AND HE ALMOST GOT KILLED FOR IT
I KNEW HE WAS A BAD GUY...
WHAT?!


HE PROMISED ME THE MOST VALUABLE PIECE OF JEWELRY HE HAD
HE WANTED TO LEAVE ME A MEMENTO, AT THE VERY LEAST...
OUR LOVE WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE
WE BOTH WISHED WE'D MET EACH OTHER SOME OTHER WAY...


about such an expensive ornament when he ran away.
He left it in the old factory on purpose.
Yeah, he couldn't have forgotten...
She wanted it because it was hard evidence that he truly loved her.
Momoka didn't want the ornament per se.
How do you describe the soul?
For me, it's the strong fire in your heart.
Your hair and body are just a container of your soul.
Yes! I can live with this!


MO-MOKA?
Her body is just "a container of her soul."
She got his proof of love, so she "could live with it."
Her soul is the "fire in her heart."
KA BOOM
!!
SOOT

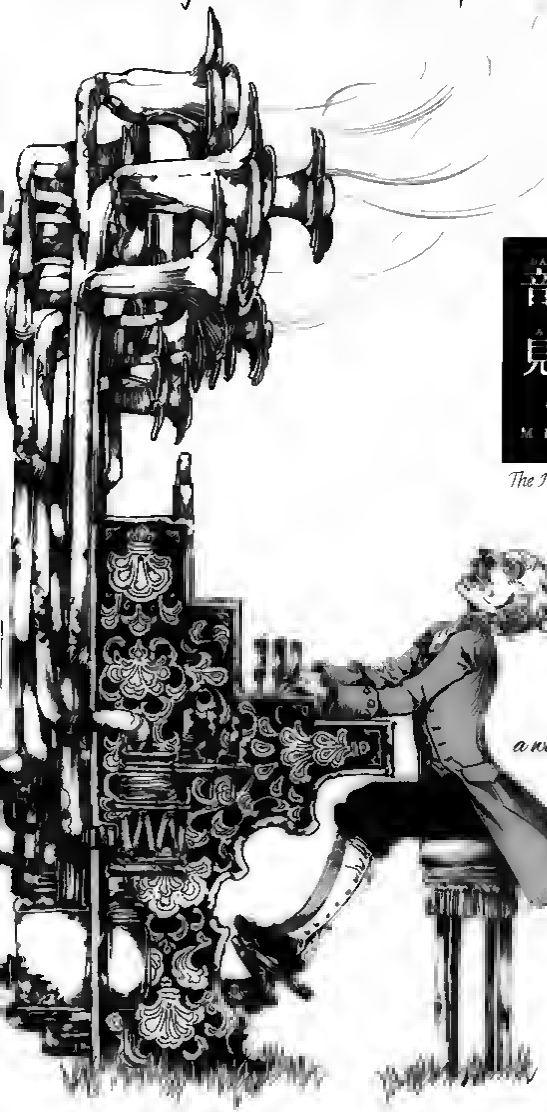

I had a vision of Momoka falling as the old factory crumbled.
...!!
She was found dead by the roadside. They said she'd fallen to her death.
Personally, I think she left her soul in the old factory.
WE WERE TOLD SHE HAD A MONTH TO LIVE.
SHE INSISTED ON ENJOYING HER LAST MOMENTS WITH YOU, SO WE ALLOWED HER TO GO OUTSIDE.
TO THINK IT WOULD COME TO THIS
THAT SILLY GIRL OVEREXER-TION WAS THE DEATH OF HER


HUH?
SHE WANTED TO SEE ME SO SHE COULD LIVE ON FOR-EVER
NO, AUNT


AND MOMOKA FOUND SOMETHING THAT WOULD LET HER LIVE ON
WE WENT TREASURE-HUNTING


Momoka?
Right,
THE END

The mysterious illusions of a rare visionary!



音楽が見える男

Ongaku ga Mieru Otoko

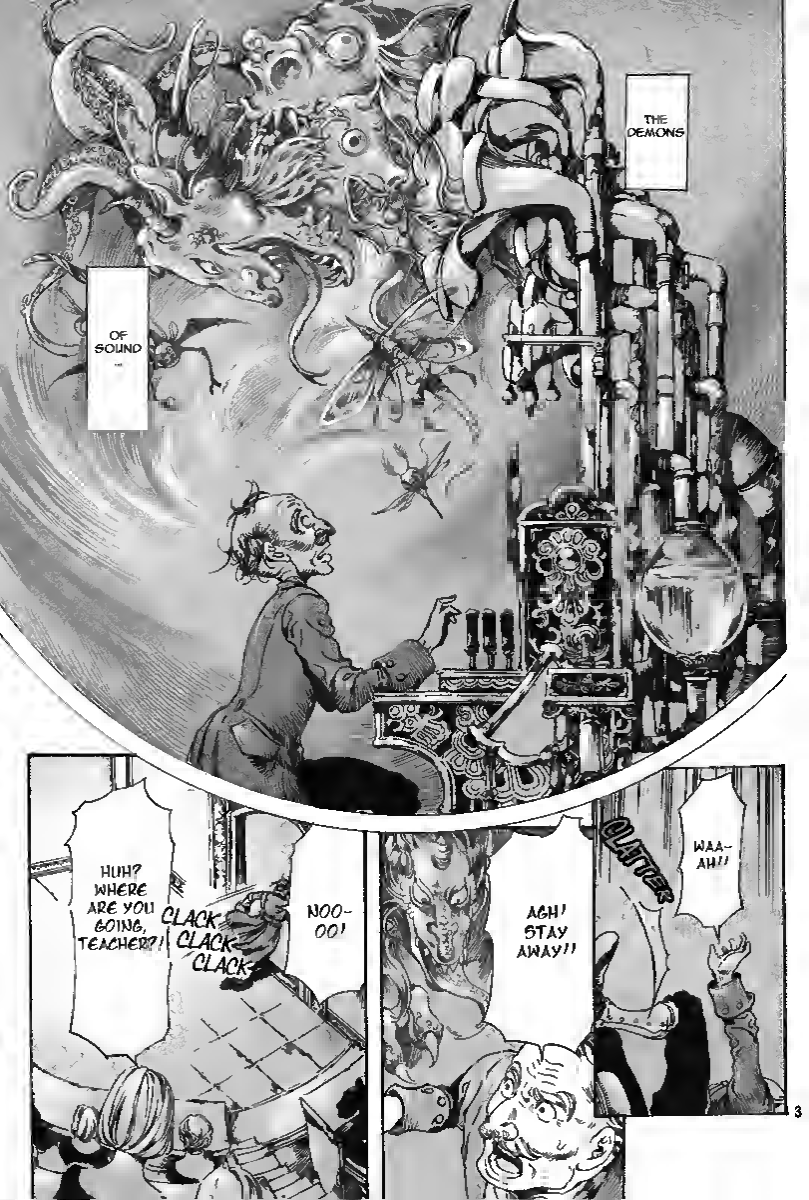
The Man Who Can See Music

I've never seen...

a world such as this!

Tsukiji Nao


TO PLAY A SINGLE NOTE...
I DON'T WANT...
WHAT'S WRONG, TEACHER ?
BUT I MUST PLAY! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TEACHING "LOTUS ORGAN" TO THE CLASS
OOZE
OOZE
THEY'RE HERE!
OOZE
YES, I AM A TEACHER!
OH,
STRUM STRUM


THE DEMONS
OF SOUND --
HUH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING, TEACHER?!
CLACK CLACK CLACK
NOO~ OO!
AGH! STAY AWAY!!
CLUTCH
WAA~ AH!!


CHATTER
SO THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MR. SUMIDA..
SO WHAT ?
HIS CLASSES ARE BORING ANYWAY
IT'S TRUE I REALLY AM
A LOUSY TEACHER
I DON'T GET ALONG WITH THE OTHER TEACHERS
AND I'M UNPOPULAR WITH THE STUDENTS
BUT THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH
I...
WHOOSH
!!


"MUSIC"
I CAN SEE MUSIC
AFTER A CERTAIN INCIDENT,
IT BEGAN TO MATERIALIZE BEFORE MY EYES...


IT'S LIKE I'VE FALLEN DEEP INTO THE DREAMS OF OTHERS
INSIDE IT THERE'S AN OVERFLOW OF MUSIC CACOPHONY
THIS IS A MUSIC SCHOOL
MOST OF THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN PRACTICING, AND SO THEY'RE STILL DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS
THEY PRODUCE STRANGE IMAGES
YET IN THE MIDST OF IT, THERE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL THINGS
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE ACTING LIKE USUAL, SO IT SEEMS I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO SEES THESE ILLUSIONS
Ha! ha! ha!
So then I said
THINGS LIKE THIS OCCUR
VISUALIZING
BUT IF THE MUSICIAN GETS DISTRACTED AND MAKES A MISTAKE,


EH?!
TUT
TUT
TUT
THE SOUND OF DRUMS
TUT
TUT
WHOOOSH
HYAA-AAAA!
I'M FALL-ING!
SOME-ONE SAVE MEE-EE!!
TUT
SNAP
REALITY
ROLL
ROLL
HELP MEEEE!!
THUMP
MR. SUMIDA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TEACH-ER!!


SWING
BLOOP
!?
!!!
W-
GLUB...
S-STOP!
WAA-AH!!!

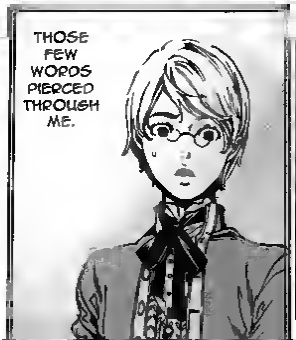
WAH!
STRETCH
AGHHH-HHHH!
W-
WHOA!
HOOOOO
AGHH-HHH!!
H HELP MEEE!!
REALITY
HUFF HUFF
IT'S OVER...


PRESIDENT
I'LL ALLOW ONE LAST CLASS FOR YOU TO SAY FARE-WELL TO YOUR STU-DENTS.
YOU'RE FIRED. SUMIDA
TURN
T-
THAT'S...
SHOOF
OH... DID I RUN OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL WITHOUT REALIZING IT..?
OH MY, WHAT IS THIS? CAUSING A RUCKUS, AREN'T WE, MR. SUMIDA?
!!
KURO-KAWA!!
I WAS JUST IN THE MIDDLE OF MY DAILY STROLL.
OH MY, CAN YOU NOT EVEN GRACE US WITH A REPLY?
OF ALL PEOPLE, HE HAD TO FIND ME LIKE THIS...


COULD IT BE THAT YOU STILL HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME
BECAUSE MY INVENTION TRUMPED YOURS?
...!!!
YES, 30 YEARS AGO, THIS MAN STOLE MY INVENT-ION
MR. SUMIDA!! WE'VE HEARD YOU INVENTED AN ORGAN THAT CAN PRODUCE MUL-TIPLE SOUNDS SIMULTANE-OUSLY!!
IT USES LUNG PRESSURE TO HIT NOTES THAT ARE TOO QUICK TO PLAY BY HAND .
REMARK-ABLE!
I SEE! SO HE CAN PLAY WHILE CONTROLLING THE PIPES WITH HIS HANDS?
BLOW
11


MY NAME IS KUROKAWA! I AM A MUSICIAN.
HOWEVER, ONE YEAR LATER
WOW!
IT TRULY IS AN INVENTION THAT WILL LEAVE A MARK ON MUSICAL HISTORY!!
I HAVE INVENTED A NEW INSTRUMENT: AN ORGAN THAT EMITS MULTIPLE SOUNDS AUTOMATICALLY!
THE AUTOMATON WILL COMBINE SOUND
CLATTER
WITHOUT ANY NEED TO MANUALLY CONTROL THE PIPES!
UNLIKE SUMIDA'S!
HOW AMAZING!! IT'S EASY FOR ANYONE TO PLAY, ISN'T IT?


FROM THEN ON, I BECAME OBSESSED WITH MY MUSIC...
OH, THAT'S SUMIDA, ISN'T IT?
HE'S STILL USING HIS MANUAL ORGAN?


THOSE FEW WORDS PIERCED THROUGH ME.


JEEZ ... LOOK AT HIS FACE!
PLAYING MANUALLY IS CRAZY, ISN'T IT?
HE SHOULD JUST USE THE AUTOMATIC ONE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
HE'S CLINGING TO HIS FORMER GLORY.
HOW PATHETIC
I FEARED THEIR CRUEL WHISPERS AND STOPPED USING THE MANUAL ORGAN.
ALL BECAUSE OF THIS MAN...!!
SMOOCH
OH? SUMIDA, YOU SEEM TO HAVE INJURED YOUR HEAD.
FORTUNATELY YOUR SCHOOL IS NEXT TO A HOSPITAL, SO PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SEEK MEDICAL CARE?


AND WHILE YOU'RE THERE, COULD YOU HAVE YOUR BALDNESS, SHRINKING STATURE, AND GRUMPY ATTITUDE CURED?
AHAHA!
WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME
...!!!
C—CURSE THAT WRETCHED MAN!
HE MAKES A FOOL OUT OF ME—
YET WHY HAVE I NEVER SAID ANYTHING BACK?!
DAMN IT ALL!
GII
HEY, SUMIDA.
NU
UWAH! YOU'RE STILL HERE?!
14
HOW ABOUT DYING ALREADY?
STAB
YOU'RE A PATHETIC FAILURE WHO'S BEEN FIRED FROM HIS JOB AND CAN'T EVEN DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST SOME COCKY FOOL.
AS YOUR "MUSIC", I'LL PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY.
DON'T JOKE WITH ME!


LOOM
DASH
AGHHH!
YOU CREATE NOTHING BUT DEMONIC SOUND!
IF YOU THINK THAT, THEN YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR SELF VERY WELL.
M-MY MUSIC WOULD NEVER CREATE SOMETHING LIKE YOU...
THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE!
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LOOK FOR THAT MAN!!
I WAS PERFECTLY NORMAL...
UNTIL I MET HIM IN THE PARK THREE DAYS AGO.
HEY, OLD MAN...
I KNOW YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF WRINKLES TO BEGIN WITH, BUT NOW EVEN YOUR EYEBROWS ARE FULL OF 'EM.
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
surprise
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! WHY'RE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT...?


TRASH!!?
I LIVE IN THE JUNKYARD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THOSE RUINS
OH THIS?
I MADE IT OUT OF GARBAGE!
OLD MAN, DO YOU ALWAYS PONDER YOUR THOUGHTS HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
THIS YOUNG MAN IS A REAL ODDBALL ISN'T HE
NOTHING MUCH, THIS AND THAT...
FOR EXAMPLE THAT MAN OVER THERE.
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S A NUISANCE? HE'S TAKING UP THREE SEATS!


AND THAT YOUNG MAN PLAYS TERRIBLY. IT'S ACTUALLY A NUISANCE.
IS PRETTY GAUDY AND CHEAP-LOOKING
AND THE DARK GATE
I SEEEEE SO THE WHOLE WORLD BORES YOU, OLD MAN?
OH, THERE ARE SUCH THINGS AS MIRACLES!
YOU'VE SIMPLY NEVER LOOKED FOR THEM
THERE'D NEED TO BE NO LESS THAN A MIRACLE FOR ME TO FIND ANY INTEREST IN THIS PLACE
WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE?
OH?
TURN
I'VE HAD ENOUGH TALKING WITH YOU IS GETTING ME NOWHERE
LIKE THIS TREASURE I FOUND IN THE GARBAGE!


UGH...
SHOVE!
TAKE THIS!
GYA!
SQUEEZE
HOLD ON A SEC!!
I'LL GRANT YOU ONE WISH
SILENCE
HUH!? WHERE'D HE GO!?
GULP
I SWALLOWED IT!
COUGH!
W-WHAT DID YOU DO?!


A STRANGE MAN FORCED ME TO EAT SOMETHING EQUALLY STRANGE...
IT'LL PROBABLY MAKE ME SICK...
I FEEL FINE RIGHT NOW BUT...
TONK TONK
HMM...
BUT HE DID MENTION A WISH...
IF I COULD HAVE A WISH GRANTED
I'D LOVE TO BASK ONCE MORE
IN THE ADULATION OF 30 YEARS AGO...
BLUSH
AT ANY RATE, THAT'S A DISTANT MEMORY...
CREAK
WELL...
SLAM
STARE...
NO THANKS TO KUROKAWA, MY DREAM WILL NEVER BE REALIZED
TONK TONK
CLAT


BWHAA
IT'S KURO-KAWA'S...!!
BWHAA
YES...IT'S KUROKAWA'S FAULT!
BAM!
MY MUSIC.
I SAW IT.
AT THAT MOMENT
I'VE UNDER-STOOD WITH TIME THAT
I CAN SEE MUSIC.
THE ILLUSIONS WOULD DISAPPEAR FOR A FEW HOURS, BUT
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I RAN WITH-OUT UNDER-STANDING WHY.
SO THEN, WHAT IS MY MUSIC?


N-NO!!
SINCE YOU HAVE TIME TO THINK, I'M GUESSING YOU'RE READY TO GIVE UP AND DIE?
HEY
YOU MAY BE MY MUSIC, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW SQUAT!!
COMPARED TO THAT...
HIS WIFE IS AN ACTRESS 25 YEARS YOUNGER THAN HIM.
KUROKAWA'S NOW INCREDIBLY RICH BECAUSE OF THE ORGAN'S SUCCESS.
CONTINUING TO LIVE A LIFE FULL OF REGRET?
EH ?
WE SHOULD HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER, RIGHT?
YOU DID BETRAY ME, AFTER ALL.
SHOOP
SHOOP
I KNOW YOU BEST OF ALL.


HEY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY...
WAIT...
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT BEING "TOGETHER FOREVER"...?
NO... AS A CHILD, I NEVER HAD ANYONE I CONSIDERED A "FRIEND"
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE MY PARTNER!
LET'S WORK HARD TO BECOME WONDERFUL MUSICIANS!
AS A LAD, THERE WAS SOMEONE I TALKED TO
IT'S BEEN SO LONG THAT MY MEMORIES ARE VAGUE, BUT...
I HAVE A FEELING THIS FACE BEARS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE...
IS THIS DEMON HAUNTING MY MUSIC THE GHOST OF MY FRIEND FROM LONG AGO?


NO RIGHT NOW, I SHOULD BE SEARCHING FOR THAT MAN BEFORE INVESTIGATING FURTHER
THE RUINS WHERE HE DWELLS IN ARE ALREADY RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES
FLIT, FLIT
WHAT?
!
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SOUND!
WHAT IS THIS?
@ANCE
!!
IS IT THAT MAN'S SONG?!


DID YOU MAKE UP THAT SONG JUST NOW!?
AH, THE OLD MAN FROM BEFORE.
DASH
PERFECT TIMING! I'VE GOT SOME GREAT THINGS OVER AT THE JUNKYARD. COME SEE!
EH? WAIT-


HOLD ON-
GASP
I REMEMBER NOW
I'VE HEARD A BEAUTIFUL MELODY LIKE THAT BEFORE
I WAS WITH MY FIRST PARTNER

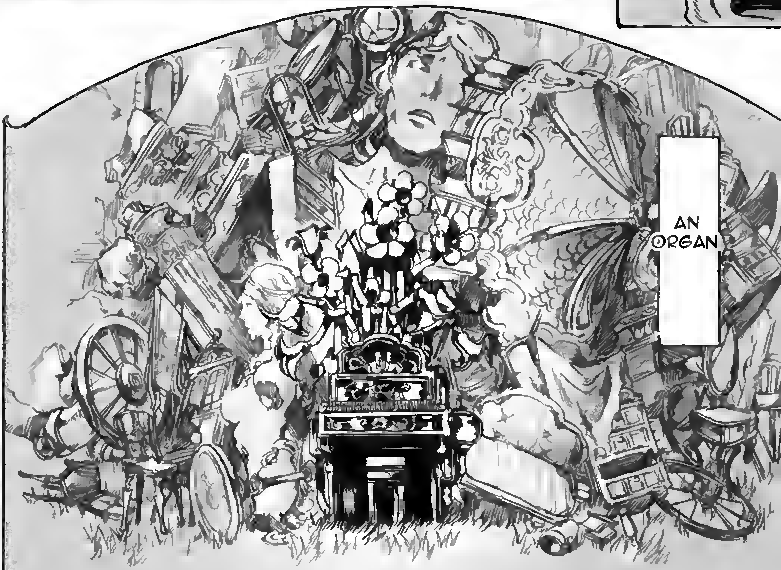

MY BOY-HOOO PARTNER...
EVEN THOUGH
I WAS GIVEN AN ORGAN, I'M NOT HAPPY AT ALL. IT'S BROKEN FOR GOODNESS' SAKE!
IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN MAMA GOT FROM ONE OF MY COUSINS
THE GUYS AT SCHOOL WILL TEASE THAT IT'S BROKEN BECAUSE THAT'S ALL OUR FAMILY COULD AFFORD


BUT I SAW SOMETHING AMAZING AT THE SQUARE TODAY
MUSIC SO LOVELY
THAT EVERYONE WAS FILLED WITH AWE
FOR HIM TO BE ABLE TO PLAY LIKE THAT... WHAT A TALENTED MUSICIAN.
I FELT AS IF I COULD FORGET ALL MY TROUBLES TOO
SO I DECIDED,
FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE
MY PARTNER.


!!
SHFF


SHFF
MY PARTNER WAS...

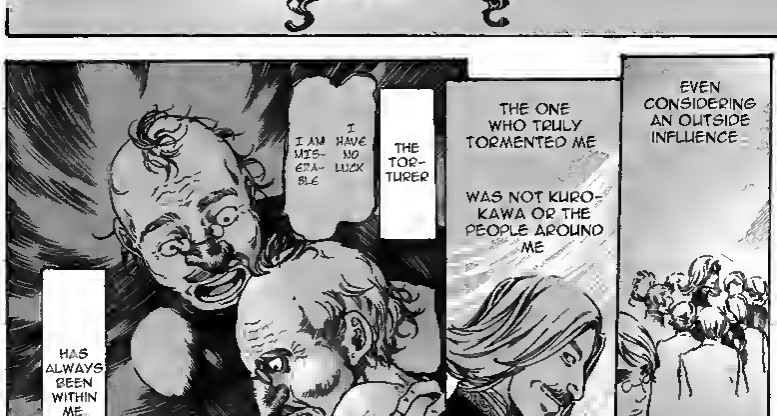

AH I REMEMBER.


AN ORGAN




FOR OUR REUNION TO BE IN A DUMP LIKE THIS...
THE ODD SOUND THAT EMANATES FROM THE BROKEN PIPES...
I THOUGHT I COULD USE IT, AND THAT'S HOW MY INVENTION WAS BORN.
BUT I THREW AWAY AND REPLACED THAT OLD ONE LONG AGO
MY FIRST ORGAN
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU STARTED MUSIC?
HSOOAE
AH..
THIS IS MY FORMER SELF
MY OWN CONSCIOUSNESS CONDEMNED ME!
I SEE NOW!!


I WITHDREW DEEP INTO MYSELF AND COULDN'T TAKE ANY ACTION.
ONLY I AM STILL SINGLE.
ONLY I FAIL.
THINGS ONLY GO WELL FOR KUROKAWA.
MY GRUDGE AGAINST KUROKAWA ATE AWAY AT ME AND I THREW AWAY MY OWN MUSIC.


I AM MISERABLE
I HAVE NO LUCK
THE TORTURER
HAS ALWAYS BEEN WITHIN ME.
THE ONE WHO TRULY TORMENTED ME
WAS NOT KUROKAWA OR THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.
EVEN CONSIDERING AN OUTSIDE INFLUENCE...


I WAS SO HAPPY AND CAREFREE...!!
WHEN I FIRST STARTED PLAYING MUSIC,


I WANTED TO PASS ON THE WONDERS OF MUSIC, SO I BECAME A TEACHER
BUT AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH KUROKAWA, I LOST INTEREST IN EVERYTHING
IT'S NO WONDER MY PAST SELF FELT "BETRAYED".
DID I ONLY PLAY MUSIC FOR THE FAME? FOR A YOUNG WIFE?
I...!!
CLATTER
KAN
KAN
I CAN SEE IT
POOF
BUT
KAN
KAN
KAN
NO SOUND PLAYS
IT'S BROKEN.

MY MUSIC?
FLAP

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
I...

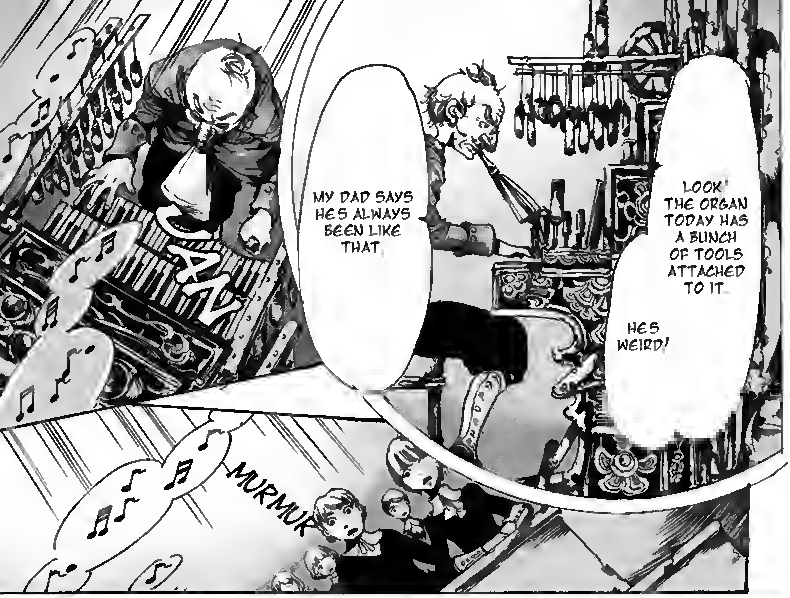

I FEEL I'VE REGAINED MY SOUND
AFTERWARD, THE MUSICAL ILLUSIONS SURROUNDING ME DISAPPEARED
I REALIZED IT WAS NOT MY ORGAN
HOWEVER, WHEN I LOOKED AT IT LATER,
AS FOR THAT MAN, IT SEEMS THERE HAVE LONG BEEN RUMORS THAT HE WAS A CRIMINAL IN POSSESSION OF A STRANGE MEDICINE.
I ONLY SAT AT THE ORGAN IN THE JUNKYARD
IN THE END, WHAT I SAW WERE DRUG-INDUCED HALLUCINATIONS

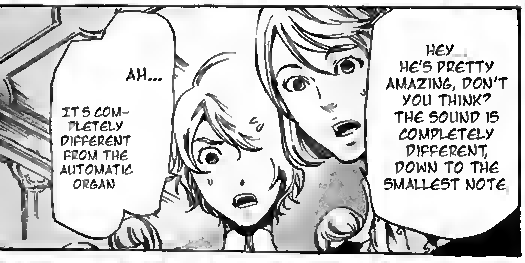

KUROKAWA WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A MENTAL DISEASE AND WAS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL NEXT TO THE SCHOOL.
THEN A SURPRISING TURN OF EVENTS HAPPENED.
THEY KEEP SAYING OVER AND OVER...
SHUT UP! EVERYONE'S MADE A FOOL OUT OF ME!
MR. KUROKAWA! PLEASE CALM DOWN!!
EVEN THE CAUSE OF HIS SUDDEN ILLNESS WAS SURPRISING.
SUMIDA'S.
IT'S JUST THE AUTOMATON OF SUMIDA'S INVENTION, ISN'T IT?
OH, KUROKAWA'S AUTOMATIC ORGAN?
SUMI-DA'S!!
WHAT A BUNCH OF CRAP!! THEY THINK I MADE MONEY OFF SUMIDA'S IDEA!?


THE MAN I WAS JEALOUS OF FOR SO LONG, WAS ALWAYS JEALOUS OF ME TOO
ANYONE CAN PLAY THE ORGAN THANKS TO ME!!
FLAIL FLAIL
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!! EVEN IF THAT BASTARD HAD 100 YEARS, HE STILL COULDN'T MAKE AN AUTOMATIC ONE!!

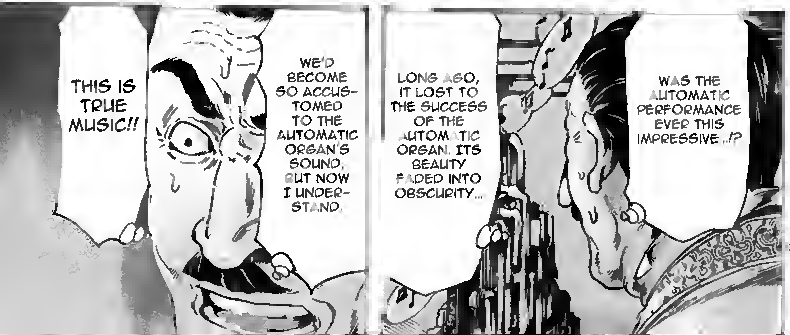

WITHOUT ANYONE EXPECTING IT,
THEY DESPERATELY FIGHT TO LIVE
BEYOND THEIR OWN PAIN AND SUFFERING
I'M SURELY NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO EXPERIENCES FAILURE
CLACK CLACK


EVEN THE PRESIDENT CAME TO WATCH
TODAY IS MR. SUMIDA'S LAST CLASS.
CHATTER
CHATTER


LOOK! THE ORGAN TODAY HAS A BUNCH OF TOOLS ATTACHED TO IT.
HE'S WEIRD!
MY DAD SAYS HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
MURMUR

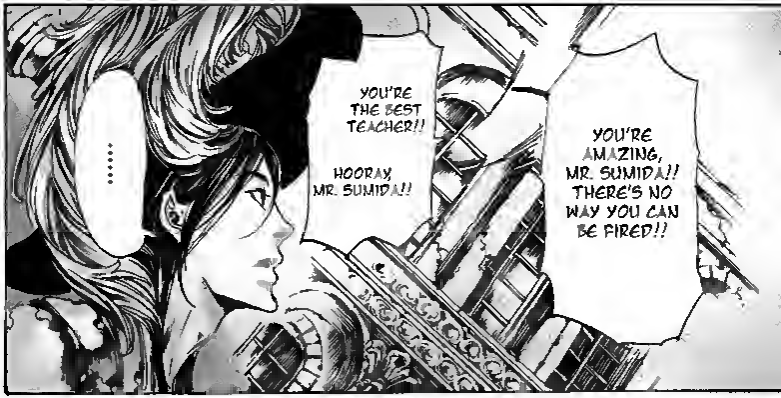

HEY... HE'S PRETTY AMAZING, DON'T YOU THINK? THE SOUND IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, DOWN TO THE SMALLEST NOTE.
AH... IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE AUTOMATIC ORGAN.


...!!
GULP


WAS THE AUTOMATIC PERFORMANCE EVER THIS IMPRESSIVE...!?
LONG AGO, IT LOST TO THE SUCCESS OF THE AUTOMATIC ORGAN. ITS BEAUTY FADED INTO OBSCURITY...
WE'D BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED TO THE AUTOMATIC ORGAN'S SOUND, BUT NOW I UNDERSTAND.
THIS IS TRUE MUSIC!!


WHAT'S WRONG, MR. KUROKAWA?
THIS SOUND...
I WAS MOVED BY THIS SOUND LONG AGO...
YES, ALL THIS TIME.
I'VE BEEN HOPING EVERYONE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WOULD PLAY THAT SOUND
TREMBLE, TREMBLE
BECAUSE I'VE LONGED TO HEAR IT.
I NOW REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN FRANTICALLY RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES

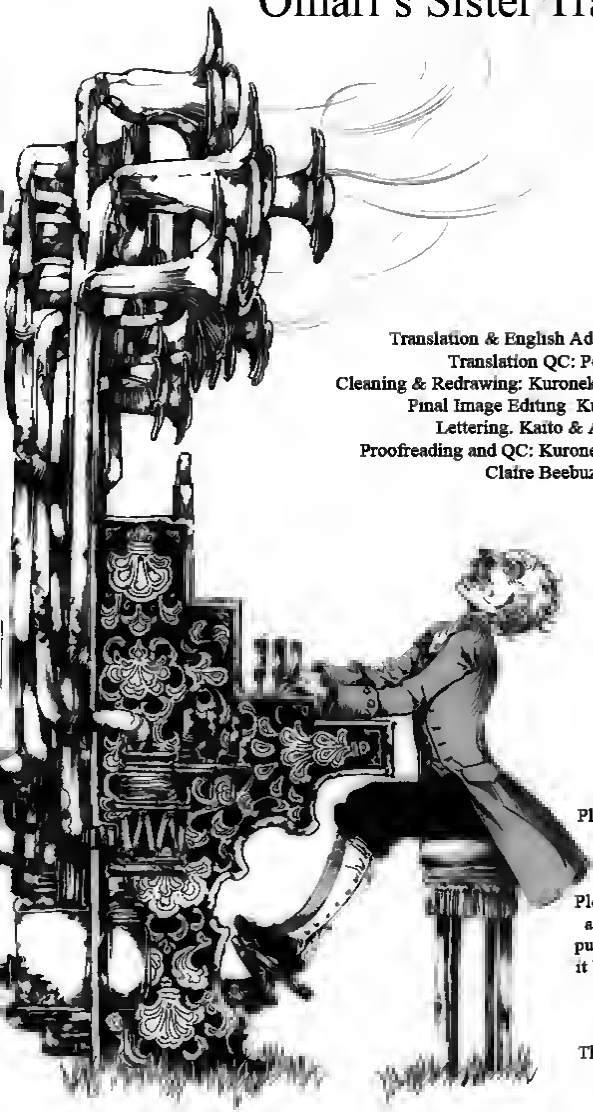

INCRE-
DIBLE
AND AS LONG AS I DON'T LOSE MY WILL TO SEARCH FOR THEM,
THEY CAN BE FOUND EVEN WITHIN GARBAGE
AND IN THE WORDS OF STRANGE MEN.
WAAAAA
THE WORLD IS OVER-FLOWING
WITH MIRACLES


.....
YOU'RE THE BEST TEACHER!!
HOORAY, MR. SUMIDA!!
YOU'RE AMAZING, MR. SUMIDA!! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BE FIRED!!


YOU'RE RATHER UNSATISFIED, AREN'T YOU, MISS?
ZA ZA
HONESTLY, THIS JOB IS TROUBLESOME ENOUGH...
CAN YOU GET OUT OF MY WAY? I'M TRYING TO SWEEP
HEHE...


WELL THEN, SHALL I GRANT YOU ONE WISH?
END

Omari's Sister Translations

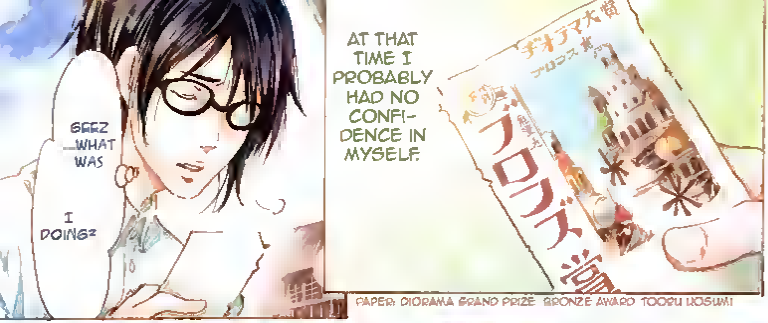


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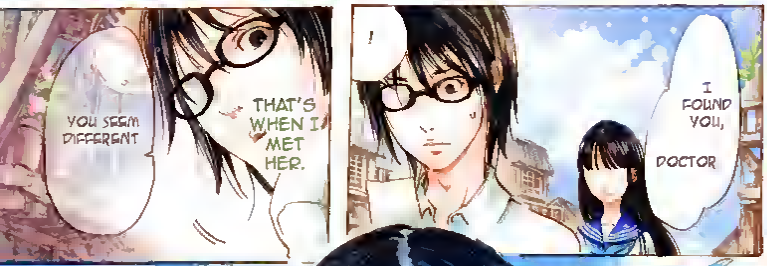
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This one-shot appeared in Aria Japanese language magazine.



PAPER DIORAMA GRAND PRIZE BRONZE AWARD TOORU HOSUMI





尚月地

箪笥少女

Chest of Drawers Girl

大好評！廃墟迷宮シリーズ第3弾！


Chest of Drawers Girl
箪笥少女
What kind of secrets
are hidden in this girl?
尚月地
Tsukiji Nao


I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE MEANT, BUT
I BELIEVED THIS GIRL
HUH?
PLIP
PROBABLY HAD MISTAKEN ME FOR MY OLDER BROTHER.
IT'S CLOSE BY
WAIT A... SHALL WE GO TO MY HOUSE?
HEY HEY STOP DON'T CRY HERE.
...!
PLIP PLIP
WOW
AMAZ-ING!
3

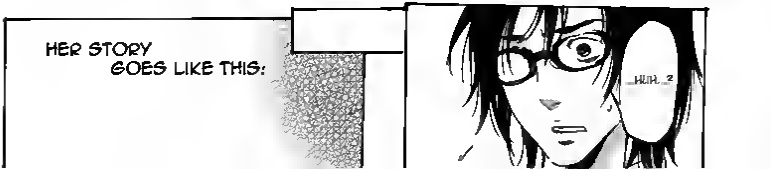

OH THAT'S MY HOBBY. I MAKE DIORAMAS.
IT'S LIKE A COUNTRY FROM A DREAM.
YOUR HOUSE HAS A LOT OF SMALL HOUSES IN IT.
MY OLDER TWIN BROTHER
I OUGHT TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO HER.
ONE OF MY OLDER BROTHER'S PATIENTS VISITING...
BUT THIS IS POINTLESS --
SO THAT'S YOUR HOBBY
REALLY?


INSIDE OF A CHEST OF DRAWERS IN HIS MEDICAL CLINIC.
DIED ONE WEEK AGO

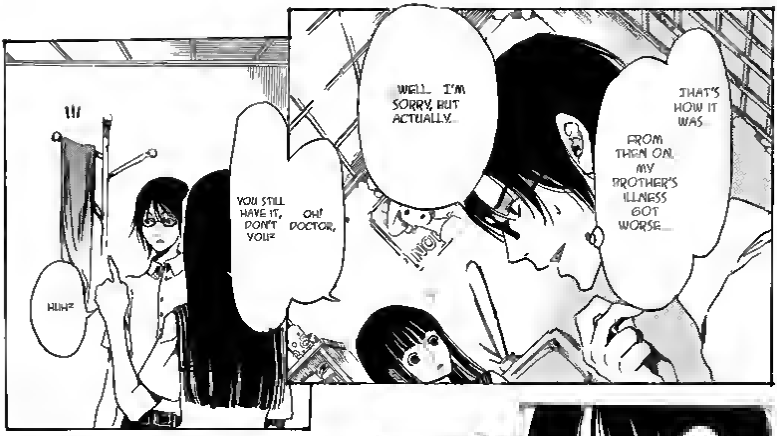
AT THAT TIME, MY BROTHER'S CHRONIC DISEASE HAD GOTTEN WORSE
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS RULED TO BE BY "NATURAL CAUSES", BUT
WHY WAS HE IN A DRAWER?
WHY WAS HE BLINDFOLDED?
EVEN NOW IT REMAINS A MYSTERY
MEDICINE SHELF
WHILE HE WAS ALIVE, MY OLDER BROTHER TENDED TO MANY PATIENTS
ALSO, MY BROTHER AND I HAD THE SAME FACE AND VOICE,
SO SHE MUST BE ONE OF HIS PATIENTS
Wow! It's so detailed!
AND HAS MISTAKEN ME FOR MY BROTHER


WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S KOZUE SUMORI.
...BUT YOU KNOW THAT RIGHT?

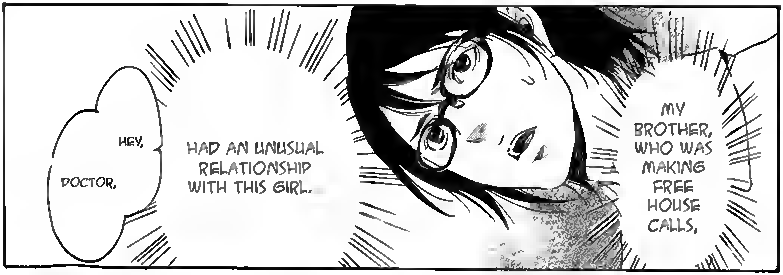

COME BACK TO MY DRAWER !!
DOCTOR, STOP IT! CALL ME KOZUE LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO!!
UM... THEN MS. SUMORI? I'D LIKE TO START BY TELLING YOU SOMETHING...


HER STORY GOES LIKE THIS:
...HUH...?

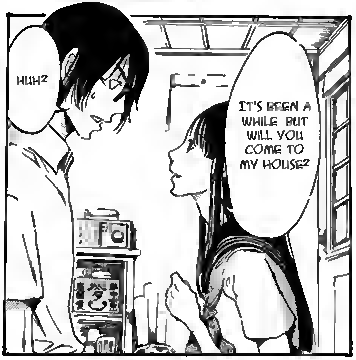

SHE HAS SCARY HALLUCINATIONS IT'S A RARE DISEASE, BUT
BECAUSE SHE'S POOR, SHE COULDN'T GET SUFFICIENT MEDICAL CARE
MY BROTHER COULD NOT STAND BY AND DO NOTHING, SO FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS HE DID HOUSE CALLS FREE OF CHARGE
BECAUSE OF HER RECULIAR DISEASE
IT SEEMS THE GIRL ONLY FELT SAFE INSIDE OF A CHEST OF DRAWERS INSIDE OF HER HOUSE
MY BROTHER GAVE HER MEDICAL TREATMENT
WHILE INSIDE THE CHEST OF DRAWERS
TWO MONTHS AGO HE STOPPED GOING


!!!
HUH?
YOU STILL HAVE IT, DON'T YOU?
OH! DOCTOR,
WELL... I'M SORRY, BUT ACTUALLY...
THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
FROM THEN ON, MY BROTHER'S ILLNESS GOT WORSE...


...!!
MY BROTHER WAS WEARING THAT BRIGHT BLUE SCARF WHEN HE DIED.
IT'S THE SAME SCARF AS THIS ONE
IT WAS COVERING HIS EYES.
I WAS SURPRISED
ISN'T IT THE SPARE I GAVE YOU, GEORGE?











OMARI'S SISTER
HTTP://OMARIS-SISTER.BLOGSPOT.COM/
FOR HIGH QUALITY VERSION


LISTEN, TOORU,
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO MY BROTHER
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE HEARD OF THIS GIRL
STRIDE
STRIDE
UNLIKE ME, HE WASN'T GLOOMY RATHER HE WAS A "GOOD YOUNG MAN" WHO EXCELLED AT BOTH LITERARY AND MILITARY ARTS.
MY BROTHER AND I HAD THE SAME FACE, BUT
REALLY?
THE TRUTH IS, THERE'S A GIRL I LIKE NOW
YOU KNOW
ENVIED MY BROTHER
DON'T BE SO MODEST POPULAR GUYS WHO ACT LIKE YOU GET ON MY NERVES
HAHA! DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING THAT EASILY?
I
KNOWING YOU, IT'LL GO WELL.
OF COURSE HE WAS WELL LIKED


I'M NOT AS COMPE-TENT AS YOU THINK
ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO PLAY BASEBALL, BUT I BECAME A DOCTOR AS DAD ADVISED
MOREOVER, WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE, I CAN'T FACE IT HEAD -ON
WELL... THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH ME, BUT YOU SHOULD FALL IN LOVE IN YOUR OWN WAY
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S EMBARRASS-ING
I don't understand what you mean...
SOON AFTER THAT...
Ha ha
MY OLDER BROTHER'S HEALTH DETERIORATED, AND THEN HE DIED
DOCTOR, WE'RE HERE!!
THIS IS MY HOUSE.
HUH?!

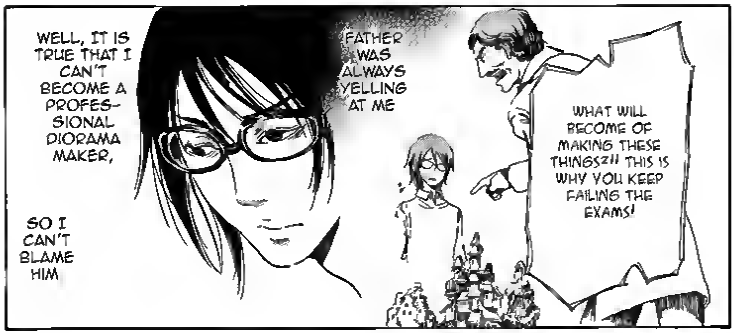

"HOUSE"?!
ISN'T THIS THE RUINS OF THE SHOPPING DISTRICT?
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S POOR, THIS IS
SHE LIVES HERE?
OH, DOCTOR, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?
!


SHE HAS AN OLDER SISTER?!
"BIG SISTER" ?!
IN THE SHORT TIME I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU, YOU'VE BECOME QUITE RAG-GEDY...
AFTER YOU FINALLY QUIT COMING, I WAS RELIEVED
DIDN'T I ALREADY TELL YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM KOZUE!!
BIG SISTER MACHIKO!
OH... I SEE
THE DOCTOR IS DIFFERENT?
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME AS OUR SHITTY FATHER! THEY'RE ALL GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!
HE PROBABLY HAS SOME KIND OF ULTERIOR MOTIVE
KOZUE!! THIS SO-CALLED "DOCTOR" IS A YOUNG MAN!!
STOP IT, SISTER!! I ASKED HIM TO COME OVER!!


SISTER, STOP IT!! IT'S NOT THE DOC-TOR'S FAULT!!
I THOUGHT MY SISTER WAS CURED
BUT SHE'S RELAPSED...
AREN'T YOU A QUACK FOR THE MOST PART?
SINCE KOZUE'S SISTER IS LIKE THIS, IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR MY BROTHER TO PER-SUADE HER
!!!
MUMBLE
I THOUGHT HE DIED BACK THEN
SWIP
KOZUE
DOCTOR, LET'S GO!
WHAT A STUBBORN MAN!!
TOM
!!
UH... OKAY
DOCTOR, OVER HERE! HURRY!
THAT WOMAN!! WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?!


WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? HASN'T OUR HOME ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS?
UH... WELL, IT'S FULL OF DRAWERS
UM, ARE THESE DOLLS?
SWIP
YES MY OLDER SISTER IS A DOLL MAKER
THESE CHESTS OF DRAWERS, YOU SEE, MY OLDER SISTER BRINGS THEM HOME FOR
BECAUSE I CAN FEEL CALMEST INSIDE OF A DRAWER


YOU SEE, WHEN I WAS BAD AS A CHILD
I WAS BLINDFOLDED AND PUT INSIDE OF A CHEST OF DRAWERS
BLINDFOLDED?
IT'S HOW MY SISTER PUNISHES ME
It's because when I was little I hated confined spaces
NO... THAT'S NUTS...
DOCTOR! GET INTO MY CHEST OF DRAWERS LIKE YOU USED TO!
OH OKAY
HERE YOU GO. HERE ARE THE MEDICAL EXAM INSTRUMENTS
MEDICAL EXAM? WELL, ONCE I HAD AMBITIONS OF BECOMING A MEDICAL STUDENT
POP
FORTUNATELY, I HAVE A CERTAIN DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE.
BUT I FAILED THE TEST YEAR AFTER YEAR, AND NOW I'M UNEMPLOYED...
"ENOUGH OF THIS, TOORU!!"


WELL, IT IS TRUE THAT I CAN'T BECOME A PROFESSIONAL DIORAMA MAKER,
SO I CAN'T BLAME HIM
FATHER WAS ALWAYS YELLING AT ME
WHAT WILL BECOME OF MAKING THESE THINGS?!! THIS IS WHY YOU KEEP FAILING THE EXAMS!


squeeze!
REGARDLESS, HOW COULD I


DOCTOR... I'M SCARED.
TREMBLE TREMBLE
WAIT... I CAN'T! I CAN'T! I'VE NEVER TOUCHED A GIRL OTHER THAN WHILE FOLK DANCING!
WH... WHAT IS SHE DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
?!!


IT HAPPENED AGAIN YESTERDAY I SAW MICCHAN
M. MICCHAN?!
SHE'S A GIRL WHO LIVES IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WE'VE TALKED ABOUT HER BEFORE, RIGHT?
MICCHAN, YOU KNOW? SHE'S THE KID WHO SAYS I KILLED A PERSON
SHE SAYS SHE SAW ME KILLING A MAN
HUH?!
SHE SAID I STUFFED A MAN INSIDE OF A CHEST OF DRAWERS
AND CAUSED HIM TO SUFFO-CATE.
MACHIKO, YOU KNOW, SAID THAT I WAS HALLU-CINATING.
.....
I DO SUFFER FROM A SCARY HALLU-CINATION SICKNESS, RIGHT?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT...
...THAT MUST BE IT, RIGHT?
HEY, HEY, HOW MUCH OF THIS GIRL'S STORY
IS TRUE
AND HOW MUCH IS PART OF HER HALLUCINA-TION?!


IS HIDDEN IN THIS GIRL?
HOW MUCH DARK-NESS
IT SEEMS SHE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT.
REALITY AND FANTASY ARE MIXED AND
THIS IS DAN-GEROUS.
WHOOSH!
!!
I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS HAPPENING, YOU PERVERTED DOCTOR!!

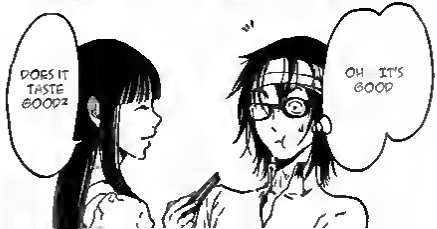

I'M GOING TO DIE
SWOON...
STOP IT, BIG SISTER! I WAS HUGGING HIM!!
SH... SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME!!
OH, YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE, DOCTOR. YOUR LEG IS HURT AND YOU CAN'T WALK.
OWW!
OWW!
JOLT!
OH, HAVE YOU COME TO, DOCTOR?
GASP!
I'LL NURSE YOU.
NO, IT'S MY FAULT THIS HAPPENED TO YOU.
NO... I'M FINE. I WANT TO GO HOME, SO PLEASE CALL A TAXI FOR ME.
I'M SORRY THIS HAPPENED. MACHIKO IS SUCH A PAIN...







KOZUE ATTENTIVELY NURSED ME



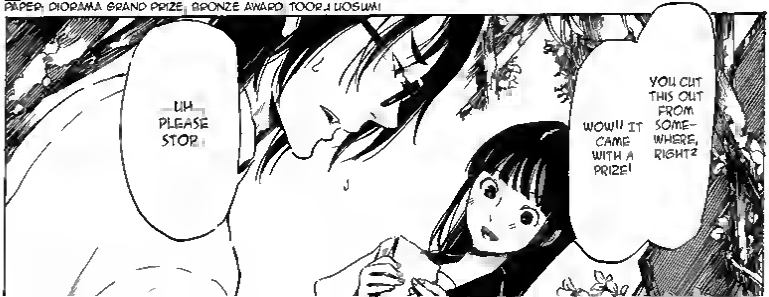

SINCE THEN.
LIVING WITH HER I CAME TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE OF HER ILLNESS
KOZUE DOESN'T FEEL SAFE UNLESS SHE'S IN A DRAWER
ASIDE FROM THAT SHE'S A VERY NORMAL GIRL.
TODAY, I GRILLED FISH
KOZUE WAS BEEN AS SHE USUALLY IS
DOCTOR, MAY I SLEEP NEXT TO YOU?
OTHER THAN THAT, SHE'S DOCILE SHE'S BECOMING EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED TO ME
SOMETIMES MICHIKO AND I HAD TO CALM HER WHEN SHE HAD HALLUCINATIONS BUT
SINCE CHILDHOOD
I HAVEN'T FELT SOMEONE SLEEPING NEXT TO ME

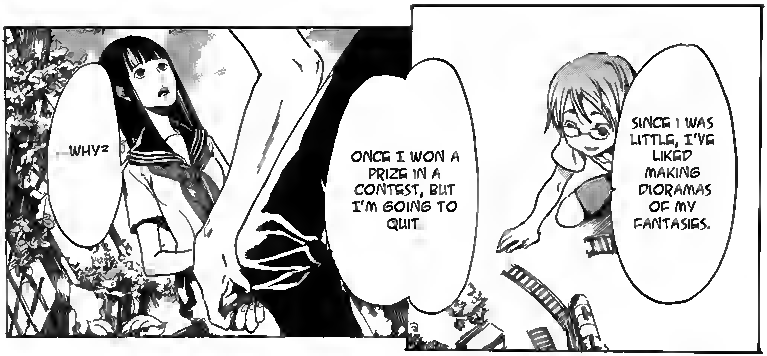

SHE HEARD THE RUMORS THAT MY OLDER BROTHER DIED OF A DISEASE
"I THOUGHT HE DIED BACK THEN"
THOSE WORDS SIMPLY MEANT
SINCE THEN, HER OLDER SISTER, MACHIKO HAS CALMED DOWN TOO
(IT SEEMS, THAT KOZUE CLARIFIED THE SITUATION)
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW, IT'S OBVIOUS.
MY BROTHER MERELY DIED OF A DISEASE.
THERE IS NOTHING DARK ABOUT THE MATTER.
IN SHORT, I WAS OVER-THINKING EVERYTHING AND
AFTER THAT, MANY DAYS PASSED AND MY LEG GOT BETTER. BUT STILL
I ENDED UP STAYING HERE.
SUITS KOZUE SO WELL.
BLUE SKY

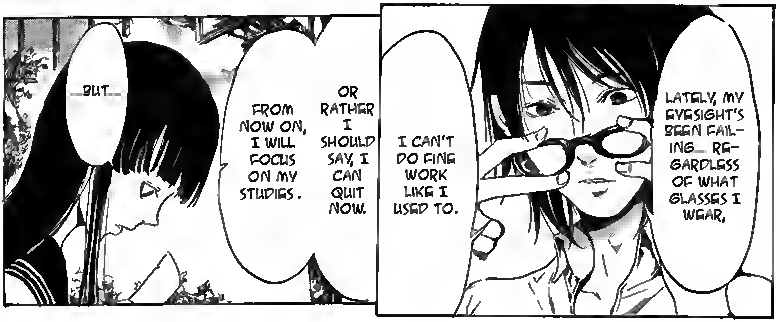


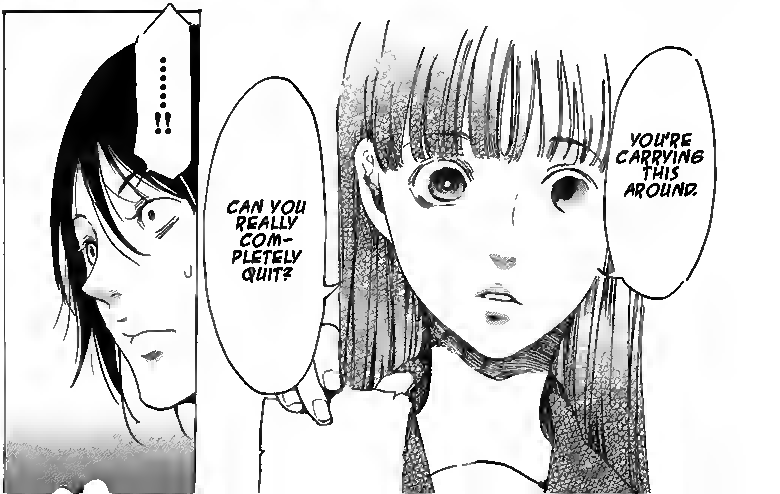


PAPER: DIORAMA GRAND PRIZE, BRONZE AWARD TOORU UOSUMI




SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I'VE LIKED MAKING DIORAMAS OF MY FANTASIES.
ONCE I WON A PRIZE IN A CONTEST, BUT I'M GOING TO QUIT.
WHY?


LATELY, MY EYESIGHT'S BEEN FAIL-ING... RE-GARDLESS OF WHAT GLASSES I WEAR,
I CAN'T DO FINE WORK LIKE I USED TO.
OR RATHER I SHOULD SAY, I CAN QUIT NOW.
FROM NOW ON, I WILL FOCUS ON MY STUDIES.
BUT...


YOU'RE CARRYING THIS AROUND.
CAN YOU REALLY COM-PLETELY QUIT?
.....!!

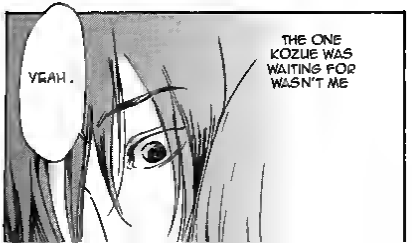

EVEN IF YOUR EYESIGHT FAILS,
NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOSE,
YOU CAN'T LOSE WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR MIND
HAVE YOU THROWN AWAY YOUR FEELINGS?
IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOW, THEN YOU CAN DO IT LATER. IF YOU CAN'T MAKE SMALL THINGS, THEN YOU CAN MAKE LARGE THINGS. YOU CAN DRAW OR WRITE
LOOK CLEARLY AT THE WORLD
AHH...
REFLECTED IN YOUR HEART
IT'S MYSTERIOUS, BUT
SLAAAA.....


IN THAT MOMENT, IT FELT LIKE
I SAW MY DREAMS BEHIND KOZUE
I REALIZED THAT I CAN STILL DREAM
DOCTOR,
YOU CAN'T COMPLETELY GIVE UP ON YOURSELF.
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.
I LOVE HER.
I LIKE KOZUE
SUDDENLY I BECAME SELF-AWARE
YEAH



I COULDN'T HOLD BACK MY FEELINGS

IN MY MIND I UNDERSTOOD, BUT



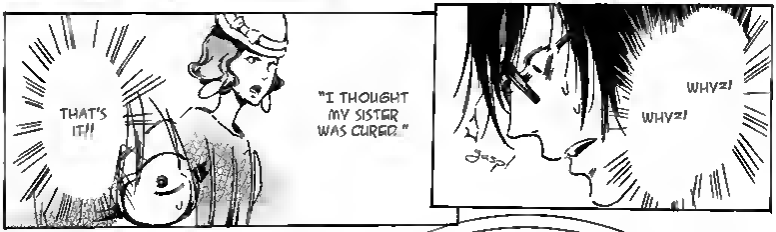

LIKE INNOCENT LOVERS, WE STAYED TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE
FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THAT, IT WAS LIKE A DREAM...
BUT THE MORE I AFFECTIONATELY THOUGHT OF KOZUE,
HEY, DOCTOR,
THE TRUTH IS I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE DAY WE MET.
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT DAY?
THE MORE I KEENLY FELT
UH...
IT ATE AT ME EVERYDAY.
I AM AN AWFUL PERSON
TONK TONK
THE ONE KOZUE LOVES,
ISN'T ME, OF COURSE, BUT INSTEAD MY OLDER BROTHER.
I HAVE TO END THIS. I HAVE TO TELL THE TRUTH.


Y...EAH
WHAT HAPPENED?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KOZUE?!!
KOZUE!!
I DON'T FEEL WELL. I SHOULD TAKE MY MEDICINE
WHAT MEDICINE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH? IT'S A STABILIZER YOU'VE GIVEN ME PERIODICALLY BEFORE.
WHAT?
A MEDICINE LIKE THAT EXISTS?!!
DIDN'T YOU PUT IT INSIDE YOUR MEDICAL KIT?
WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME TO MY HOUSE,
I WOULD SOMETIMES TAKE THE MEDICINE FROM INSIDE THE KIT...


LATELY I'VE BEEN FEELING BAD, SO I'VE BEEN TAKING THE MEDICINE DAILY.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING?
KOZUE!!
KOZUE!!

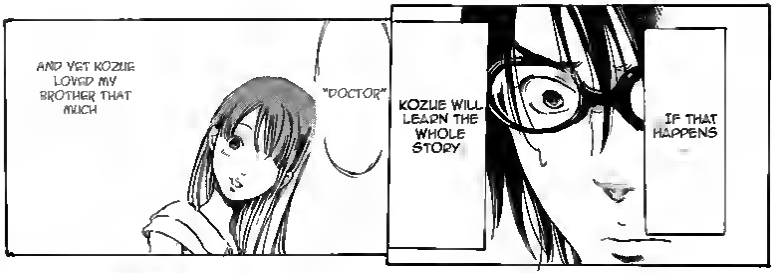

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL,
THIS IS A SPECIAL KIND OF HALLUCI-NOGEN.
WHAT?!


WHEN THIS IS TAKEN, IT CAUSES PEOPLE TO SEE HALLUCINATIONS THAT MAKE IT SEEM LIKE THE SURROUNDINGS ARE DOING THEM HARM.
IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY SIDE EFFECTS IF TAKEN OCCASIONALLY.
BUT IF TAKEN EVERY DAY FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD, IT WILL DESTROY THE BODY.
WHY WOULD MY BROTHER GIVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO KOZUE?!!

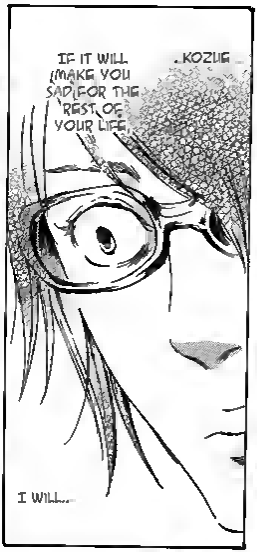

WHY?!
WHY?!
Gasp!
"I THOUGHT MY SISTER WAS CURED."
THAT'S IT!!


I'M SURE THE TRUTH IS THAT KOZUE WAS CURED QUITE SOME TIME AGO.
BUT MY BROTHER THOUGHT IF THAT HAPPENED, MACHIKO WOULD GET IN THE WAY OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH KOZUE...
AND SO HE FAKED HER ILLNESS SO IT WOULD SEEM AS THOUGH THE ILLNESS HAD RETURNED.
HE MADE HER SEE HALLUCINATIONS.


WHY DIDN'T YOU BELIEVE IN HER
BIG BROTHER?!!
HOW STUPID OF YOU, BROTHER.
"THE TRUTH IS FROM THE DAY WE FIRST MET."
KOZUE WAS SERIOUS, YET
SINCE MY BROTHER ALREADY DIDN'T HAVE LONG,
HE WANTED TO BE WITH KOZUE AS MUCH AS HE POSSIGLY COULD.
WAS THE ONE WHO EMBRACED DARKNESS
MY OLDER BROTHER?
OH NO... IT'S NOW A MATTER FOR THE POLICE!!
WHAT?!!
AND.. BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION, I HAVE TO REPORT THIS.
YOUR BROTHER DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE.


AND YET KOZUE LOVED MY BROTHER THAT MUCH
"DOCTOR"
KOZUE WILL LEARN THE WHOLE STORY
IF THAT HAPPENS


I WILL ...!!
...DER-STAND
HUH?
...PROTECT KOZUE...


IF IT WILL MAKE YOU SAD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE,
KOZUE
I WILL...


WILL KOZUE HAVE TO CONTINUE LIVING WITH HER MEMORIES OF MY BROTHER
EVEN IF THOSE MEMORIES ARE SULLIED?


BECAUSE I KEPT ON FAILING THE MEDICAL SCHOOL EXAM OVER AND OVER AGAIN,
SHE CAN'T KNOW OF MY BROTHER'S SIN.

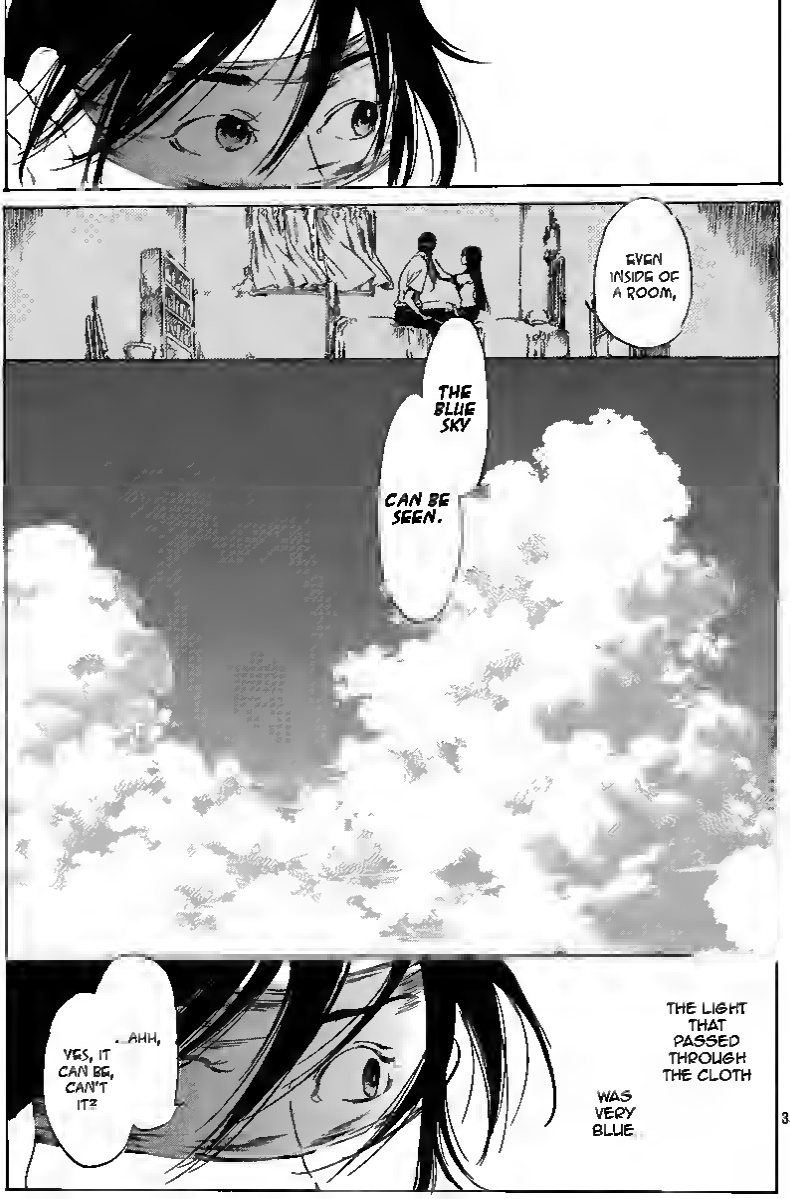

2!
THE TRUTH IS... THE HALLU-CINOGENS... I DID IT.


AND BECAUSE MY BROTHER WAS NOTHING LESS THAN PERFECT, I WAS ANGRY
JUST FOR FUN, I SWAPPED THE HALLUCINOGEN FOR MY BROTHER'S MEDICINE
AND THEN WHEN A FEMALE PATIENT OF HIS COLLAPSED
I WONDERED IF MY PRANK HAD GONE TOO FAR
.....
UM... BEFORE I GO TO THE POLICE,
CAN I HAVE A FEW MINUTES?
SLIDE!
OH. DOCTOR,
I'M SORRY I SUDDENLY COLLAPSED!
NO... THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
THE TRUTH IS,
I'M NOT YOUR DOCTOR.

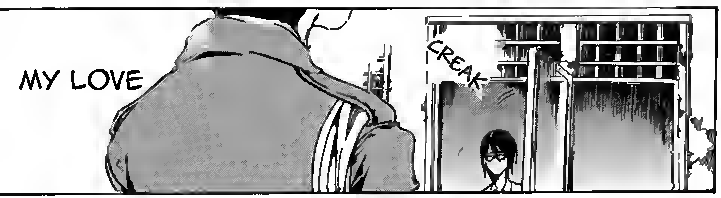

YOUR DOCTOR WAS MY OLDER TWIN BROTHER,
AND THE TRUTH IS HE DIED A MONTH AGO.
HUH? YOU'RE LYING, RIGHT?
I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.
LISTEN, AFTER I PLAYED A PRANK WITH MY BROTHER'S MEDICATIONS,
I BECAME INTERESTED IN YOU AS ONE OF MY BROTHER'S PATIENTS. I WANTED TO SEE THE EFFECT IT HAD ON YOU.
...!!
I'M SORRY I DECEIVED YOU UP UNTIL NOW.
THAT'S A LIE!!
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THESE THINGS ?!
IT'S THE TRUTH. TRY TO THINK BACK ON WHAT'S HAPPENED.
WHEN YOU MET ME, YOU SAID, "YOU SEEM DIFFERENT."
IF YOU THINK THINGS OVER IT'LL ALL MAKE SENSE


FROM NOW ON YOU CAN LIVE OUTSIDE THE CHEST OF DRAWERS
YOUR ILLNESS WAS REALLY ALREADY CURED
……
AND I WAS ALWAYS LONELY
I HAD NO SELF-CONFIDENCE,
I COULD NOT TRUST OTHERS,
FAREWELL KOZUE.
BYE TAKE CARE
37
THANK YOU.
YOU, BARE-HANDED, TOUCHED MY HEART.
LOVED YOU.
MY BROTHER
IT'S ALL LIES. DON'T BELIEVE THEM
BYE, TAKE CARE FROM NOW ON, YOU MIGHT HEAR SOME MALICIOUS GOSSIP ABOUT MY BROTHER BUT


FOR SOME REASON... I'VE ALWAYS HATED MYSELF.
I WONDER WHY I AM CRYING.
SERIOUSLY?
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOUR CLOUDS CLEARED.
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WELL, BUT
.....
RUB
TODAY... I SHOULD CHANGE.
WHEN I PUT THIS SCARF OVER HIS EYES... HE SAW A LITTLE MORE CLEARLY.
HERE
I OFTEN DID THIS WITH THE DOCTOR.
SLIDE

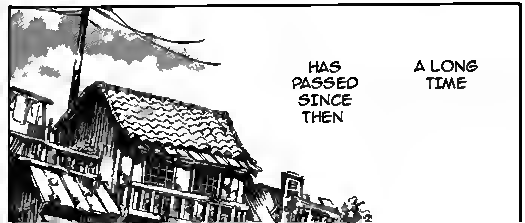

EVEN INSIDE OF A ROOM,
THE BLUE SKY
CAN BE SEEN.
...AHH, YES, IT CAN BE, CAN'T IT?
THE LIGHT THAT PASSED THROUGH THE CLOTH
WAS VERY BLUE.

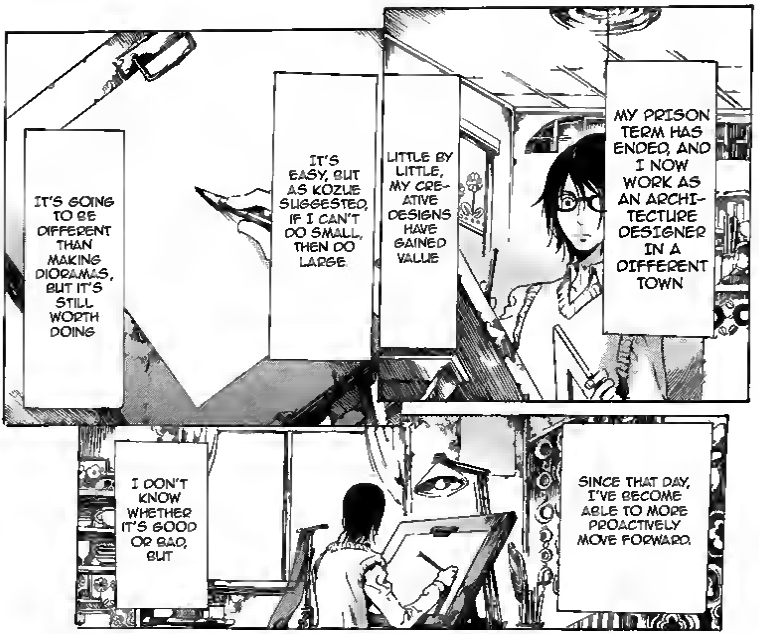

TRYING TO SEE THE BLUE SKY —
WAS, MY BROTHER, IN THE END,
IS THAT HOW IT WAS?
WITH KOZUE
THE SKY LIKE HE SAW FROM WITHIN THE CHEST OF DRAWERS
I'VE PROBABLY ALWAYS BEEN LONELY
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE AWKWARD AND
BIG BROTHER, I AM AN IDIOT. THAT'S WHY
"FALL IN LOVE IN YOUR OWN WAY"
NEVER CONFESSED TO KOZUE BECAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS AND DECLINING HEALTH
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, MY BROTHER, WHO WANTED TO PLAY BASEBALL, BUT INSTEAD TOOK FATHER'S ADVICE AND BECAME A DOCTOR,
PA-TAN

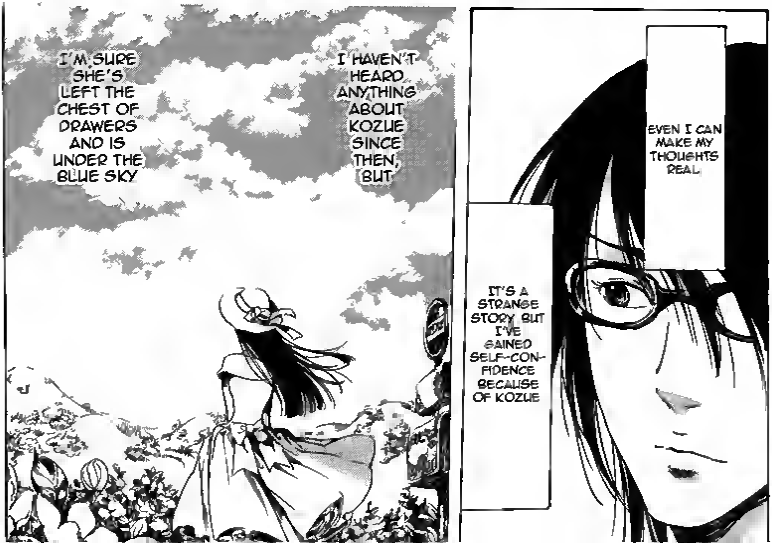


TELLS
LIES.






MY PRISON TERM HAS ENDED, AND I NOW WORK AS AN ARCHITECTURE DESIGNER IN A DIFFERENT TOWN
LITTLE BY LITTLE, MY CREATIVE DESIGNS HAVE GAINED VALUE
IT'S EASY, BUT AS KOZUE SUGGESTED, IF I CAN'T DO SMALL, THEN DO LARGE
IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT THAN MAKING DIORAMAS, BUT IT'S STILL WORTH DOING
SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE BECOME ABLE TO MORE PROACTIVELY MOVE FORWARD.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD, BUT


I'M SURE SHE'S LEFT THE CHEST OF DRAWERS AND IS UNDER THE BLUE SKY
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT KOZUE SINCE THEN, BUT
EVEN I CAN MAKE MY THOUGHTS REAL.
IT'S A STRANGE STORY, BUT I'VE GAINED SELF-CONFIDENCE BECAUSE OF KOZUE


I THINK NOSTAL-GICALLY OF MY FIRST LOVE.
ON DAYS WITH A SKY THIS BLUE,
FLAP FLAP
TODAY TOO BY THE WINDOW IN MY ROOM,
DING-DONG
YES?
THE BLUE SKY VIVIDLY FLIES.
E.N.D

Omari's Sister Translations

筒少女



TRANSLATION AND ENGLISH ADAPTATION:
BLANK PARCHMENT
EDITING: KURONEKOOO3
TRANSLATION QC: KURONEKOOO3, PEONINE, JADE
CLEANING: WING, KANE, KURONEKOOO3 &
ICHIGO STARS
SFX/TEXT MAKE EDITING: KURONEKOOO3
LETTERING: KURONEKOOO3
PROOFREADING AND QC: JADE, ZENNY, CLAIRE
BEEBUZZ

PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD TO ANY MANGA AGGREGATOR SITES.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ARTIST AND THE DISTRIBUTOR BY PURCHASING THE MANGA IF IT BECOMES LICENSED AND AVAILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY.

THIS ONE-SHOT APPEARED IN AN JAPANESE LANGUAGE MAGAZINE.

尚月地

Tsukiji Nao


I respected my mother
Long ago, until the age I started going to school,
The Hill on Top of the Hat
帽子の上の丘
尚 月地
Tsukiji Nao
I thought my mother was a splendid person
Making hats for the dead
that's what my mother did
THOMA HAT SHOP
THE CAPITAL AURILLIS

尚 月地

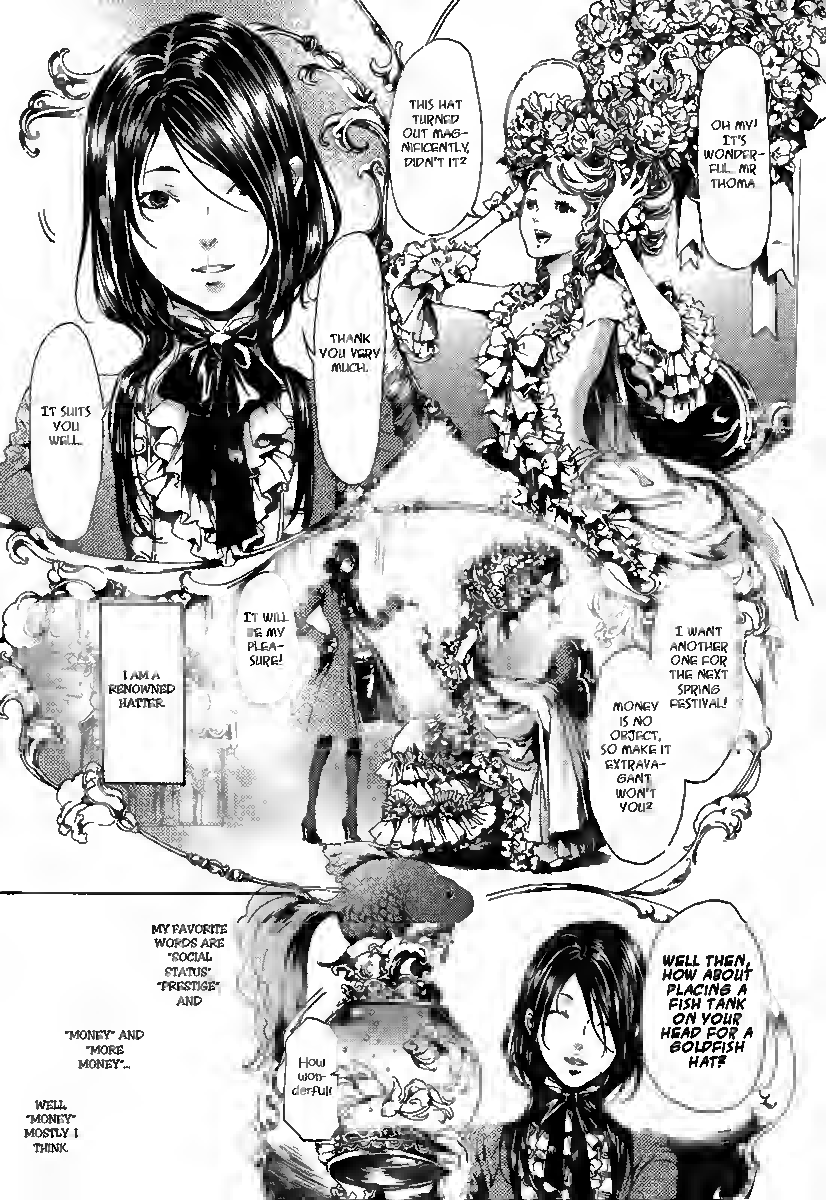
Tsukiji Nao

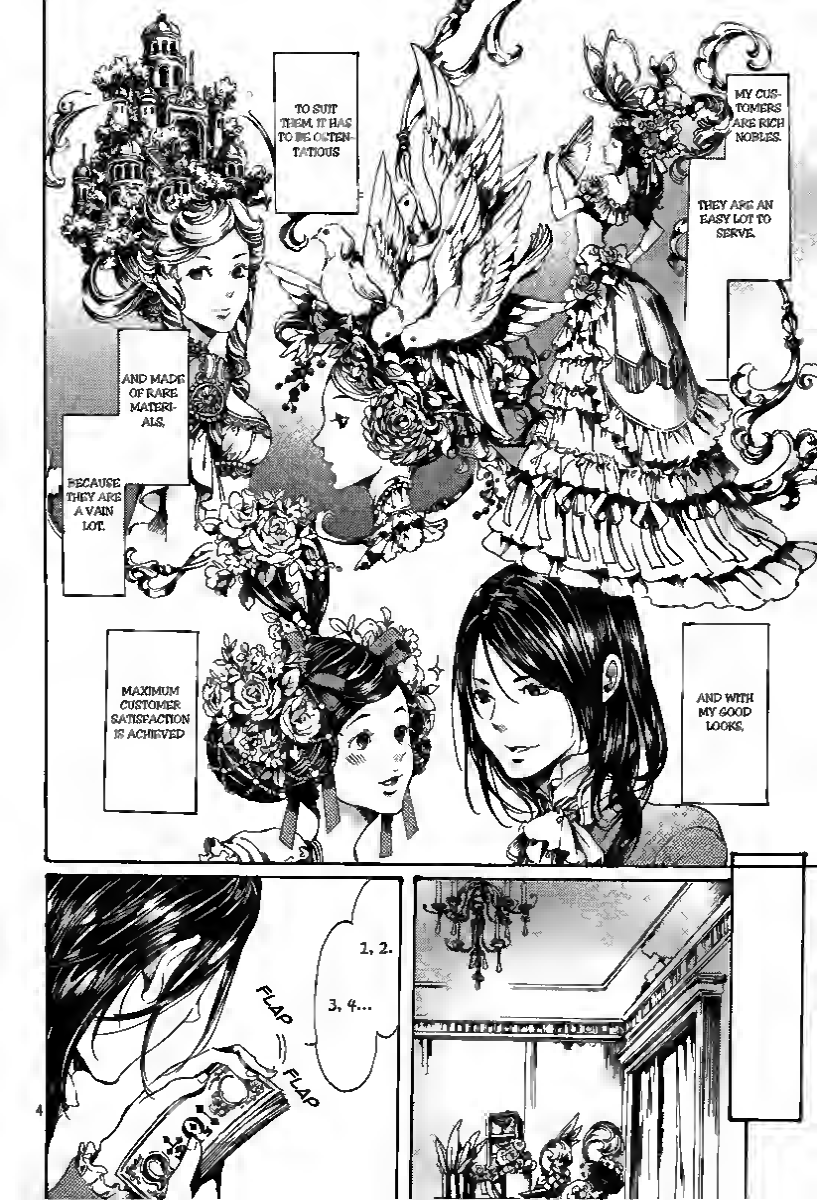


帽子の上の丘

The Hill on Top of the Hat

[illegible] no ue no oka


OH MY! IT'S WONDERFUL, MR THOMA
THIS HAT TURNED OUT MAGNIFICENTLY, DIDN'T IT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT SUITS YOU WELL.
I AM A RENOWNED HATTER.
IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE!
I WANT ANOTHER ONE FOR THE NEXT SPRING FESTIVAL!
MONEY IS NO OBJECT, SO MAKE IT EXTRAVAGANT WON'T YOU?
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT PLACING A FISH TANK ON YOUR HEAD FOR A GOLDFISH HAT?
How wonderful!
MY FAVORITE WORDS ARE "SOCIAL STATUS" "PRESTIGE" AND
"MONEY" AND "MORE MONEY"...
WELL, "MONEY" MOSTLY I THINK.


MY CUSTOMERS ARE RICH NOBLES.
THEY ARE AN EASY LOT TO SERVE.
TO SUIT THEM, IT HAS TO BE OSTENTATIOUS
AND MADE OF RARE MATERIALS.
BECAUSE THEY ARE A VAIN LOT.
MAXIMUM CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS ACHIEVED
AND WITH MY GOOD LOOKS,
1, 2.
3, 4...
FLAP
FLAP


Ha!
Ha!
Ha!
Ha!
VIVA MONEY!!
I EXPECT NO LESS FROM MYSELF!!
HOORAY! THIS MONTH'S EARNINGS ARE EXCELLENT!!
YOU WERE ACTING SO SHITTY THAT I COULDN'T HELP BUT SAY SOMETHING!!
OH! IT DIDN'T WORK!! BUT I TRIED SECRETLY PUTTING A CURSE ON YOUR ROOM...
THE SHITTY ONE IS YOU. WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO CURSE ME TO DEATH?!
HELLER BLACK MAGIC TECHNIQUE!
(Cursed the room with this.)
CLENCH!
...LIKE THE PICTURE OF A TRASHY UPSTART)
THAT'S MISTER THOMA FOR YOU.
ALWAYS DON'T LET YOURSELF IN WITHOUT ANNOUNCING YOURSELF, DOLCHELLE!
WHY ARE YOU ACTING EMBARRASSED WHILE SPOUTING SUCH NONSENSE?!!
NO WAY! IT WON'T HAPPEN FOR YOU!!
TERRIBLE IDEA!! E
If you die, your assets would go to me, your apprentice.
Since you haven't any living relatives...


HEY! WHAT ARE YOU UNDRESSING FOR?!
IMPOSSIBLE IMPOSSIBLE I DON'T LIKE YOU AT ALL!
UNDRESS UNDRESS
THEN MARRY ME. THAT WAY HALF OF YOUR ASSETS WILL BE MINE!
2 Years Ago
Hey, let me work for you
My hobby is Black Magic.
UGH! NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANTED AN ASSISTANT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE PICKED UP SOMEONE LIKE YOU FROM THE SLUMS
SHE'S A WEIRD GIRL, BUT SHE'S CHEAP LABOR, SO I SUPPOSE IT'S FINE
IT DOES NOT! WHY WOULD IT?!! IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR ANOTHER REASON!
Do you think you can embarrass me, when the truth is me in my underwear excites you?
MASTER THOMA, IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE A ROTTEN PERSONALITY
You really are only good looks
SO WHY WON'T A DECENT APPRENTICE COME TO WORK FOR ME?!
AAH... I'M A HANDSOME GENIUS,


YOU SHOULD STOP YOU SPEAKING THE TRUTH
HURTS.
OH, COME TO THINK OF IT, A NEW COMMIS-SION CAME IN
IT'S FROM THE KING.
CRACK
REALLY?!
SQUEEGH! SQUEEGH! SQUEEGH!
IT FI-NALLY CAME!!
So at last, I too have been asked to make a hat for the King!!
VROOM...
THIS TIME IT'S A COMMISSION FOR A HAT FOR THE SPRING FESTIVAL
I'LL BE EM-PLOYED AS THE KING'S HATTER ...
IF I CAN GET IN HIS GOOD GRACES,
Ee hee hee...
DISGUST-ING
WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE IF IT HAPPENED?
AFTER ALL, THIS IS THE COUNTRY OF HATS.


HATS ARE WHAT NEWBORN BABIES WEAR.
AT FUNERALS, HATS ARE WHAT THE DECEASED WEAR.
AT FESTIVALS AND WEDDINGS, IT'S HATS
THAT'S WHY HATTERS HAVE HIGH SOCIAL STATUS.
WELL... SPEAKING OF HATS FOR THE DEAD
AMONGST HATTERS, ONLY "FUNERAL HATTERS"
ARE IN THE LOWEST SOCIAL CLASS.
IT'S SAID SINCE ANCIENT TIMES IN THIS COUNTRY SLAVES WERE THE ONES INVOLVED IN BUSINESSES HAVING TO DO WITH THE DEAD
EVEN NOW, DISCRIMINATION IS INTENSE, ISN'T IT?
IT'S AWFUL...
Hmph
I KNOW NOTHING OF LOW-CLASS JOBS
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
...MOTHER...


MOTHER, IS THIS PERSON DEADZ
YES, SHE IS.
THAT'S DISGUST-ING! IT'S SCARY! I'M GOING TO PEE ON MYSELF
SQUIRT
GEEZ YOU'VE ALREADY PEED YOURSELF A LOT
DON'T COME OVER HERE LIKE THAT
DON'T GET IN THE WAY
BECAUSE MAKING THE DEAD BEAUTIFUL IS MY JOB
LOOK
YOU SEE THIS WOMAN WAS THE WIFE OF A FISHERMAN, SO
I USED BLUE AND WHITE MATERIALS AND PUT ON SHELLS AND PEARLS LIKE THIS.
WOW! IT'S PRETTY!! LIKE A MERMAID IN A PICTURE BOOK


DOESN'T SHE? YOU SEE.
I RETURN THE DEAD TO THE TIME IN THEIR LIVES WHEN THEY SHINED THE MOST.
MOM, YOU'RE AMAZING AND WONDERFUL. I'M GOING TO FOLLOW YOU!
DON'T FOLLOW ME RIGHT NOW!
Don't get me dirty!
MASTER THOMA,
EXCUSE THE ENNUI, BUT
CAW CAW
WE'RE LOST.


WE CAN'T BE!!
THIS IS SERIOUS. EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE ROUTE TO THE CASTLE, WE CAN'T DRIVE THROUGH THIS FOREST.
CRAP... FOR ONE OF THE FEW TIMES IN MY LIFE I WAS ABSORBED IN THOUGHT AND THEN THIS HAPPENS...
THE SUN IS SETTING AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE ROAD WELL. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?


ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S GOTTEN COLD..
THE SPRING FESTIVAL IS NEAR, YET IT'S STILL COLD AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR...
WE'RE HAVING STRANGE WEATHER, IT SEEMS.
OH!
MASTER THOMA! THERE ARE SOME RUINS OF A SMALL BUILDING OVER THERE!!
SINCE IT'S ALREADY DARK, LET'S SPEND THE NIGHT THERE.
UH...
COME ON, HURRY UP AND GET OUT!!
DON'T RUSH ME!
CAW
CAW
THIS PLACE LOOKS GHASTLY ...
BUT ACTING SCARED IS UNBECOMING
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT...


WHOA...
THE INTERIOR IS ALSO IN RUINS...
HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT THE "ENDLESS RUINS"?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THEY ARE FAMOUS BECAUSE OF THE OCCULT BOOM.
BLOOP BLOOP
THEY SAY BECAUSE THE RUINS ARE SO VAST,
BLOOP BLOOP BLOOP
WHISH WHISH WHISH
THE LAST PERSON WHO SET FOOT IN THEM
NEVER LEFT.
.....!!


MESMERIZING, ISN'T IT?!
.....
AUGHHH!
HUHZ MASTER THOMA, YOU AREN'T OVER-MESMERIZER ARE YOUZ
YOUR EYES ARE WIDENING


TREMBLE
TREMBLE
CALM DOWN... THIS IS A BAD DREAM
IT'S NOT REAL!
Whoo-hoo!
Fantastic! We've arrived at the Endless Ruins!! They really exist!!
SHE ESPECIALLY DOESN'T EXIST
WHAT IS THERE TO BE HAPPY ABOUT? HAS SHE LOST HER MIND?
I ALREADY KNEW SHE WAS WEIRD, BUT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Master Thoma, you can probably see them!!
THEY SAY THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WITH NO ONE TO TEND TO THEIR GRAVES GATHER IN THE END-LESS RUINS!
THEY DIDN'T RECEIVE A PROPER BURIAL CEREMONY


LOOK
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ...?
HUH?
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
YOU KNOW, LIKE ON A FIELD TRIP
YEAH... THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT HAPPENED YOU ALREADY LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BECOME PART OF A GROUP PHOTO
DOL-CHELLE !!


W-WHAT ARE YOU?! WHAT DID YOU DO TO DOLCHELLE?
STAGGER...
WHY ARE YOU HUMANS HERE?


BECAUSE SHE WAS SUCH A NOISY GIRL, I ABSORBED HALF OF HER LIFE FORCE.
UGH. UGH.
SWAY.
I AM THE MASTER OF THESE RUINS.
YOU ARE RUDE FOR COMING INTO MY CASTLE.
YOU AND YOUR COMPANION WILL NEVER LEAVE THESE RUINS...
WHISH...
……!!
WH-WHAT HAVE WE DONE?
DID WE ENTER A GHOST'S DEN?
……?!

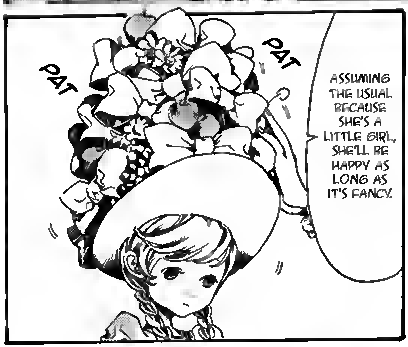

WHAT IS HE DOI..2!! IS HE MAKING FUNERAL HATS FOR THE GHOSTS?!
...THAT MUST BE WHAT HE'S DOING...
THE GHOSTS HERE WEREN'T GIVEN A PROPER BURIAL...
THAT'S WHY THEY WANT FUNERAL HATS...
...WHO IN THE WORLD IS THAT GHOST?!
...UT...
THIS CAN BE OF USE
UM...
ARE YOU MAKING HATS FOR THEM?
YES IT'S AN IMPORTANT JOB.
I'M BUSY BUT EVEN UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, I AM NOW WEAK...


AH WELL, I'M A HATTER
Heh heh heh!
I ALSO HAPPEN TO BE EXTRAORDINARILY SKILLED
SAY, CAN I HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK?
.....
IN EXCHANGE FOR MY HELP WHEN I'M DONE YOU WILL LET ME LEAVE HERE
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, AT THAT TIME, YOU SHOULD RESTORE HER LIFE.
It's fine if you can't
..."WHILE YOU'RE AT IT"...
..I SEE.
IF YOU EARNESTLY MAKE HATS, I WILL ACCEPT YOUR CONDITIONS.

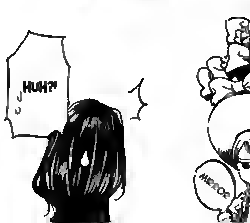

ALL RIGHT !!
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE THREE DAYS.
FOLLOW THIS TOY.
IT WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO ESCAPE THIS LABYRINTH.
ROLL
ROLL
TONK
AND AS YOU FOLLOW THAT PATH,
MAKE HATS FOR EVERYONE YOU ENCOUNTER.
IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO MAKE HATS THAT SATISFY THEM
WITHIN THOSE THREE DAYS, YOU WIN.
...FINE. THEN GIVE ME THE MATERIALS.
... MASTER THOMA ...


THAT WOODEN HORSE WILL TAKE US TO THE EXIT
IF WE FOLLOW IT
!!
I AM!! I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE AND BECOME THE ROYAL HATTER
OF COURSE
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA DO IT?

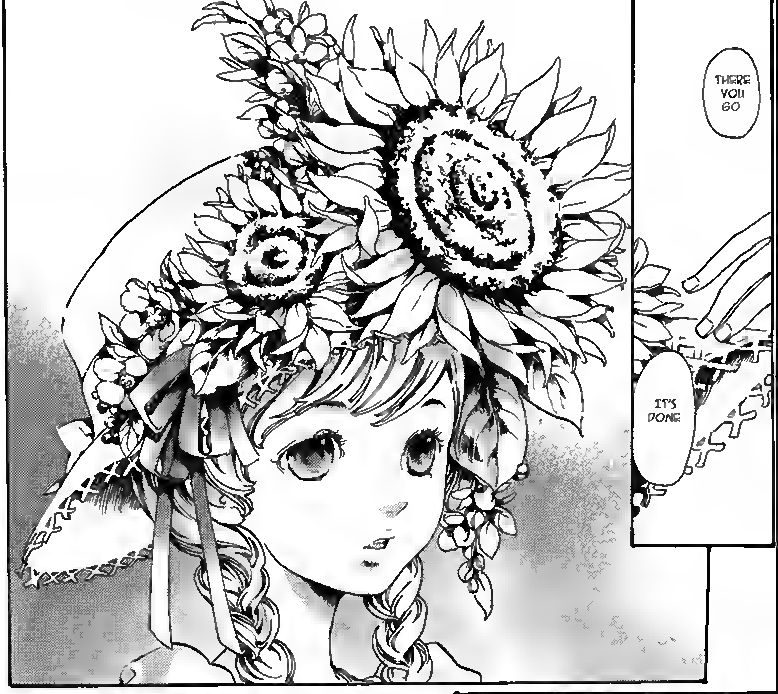

ALL RIGHT!!
CL CK
YOU HAVE TO MAKE A HAT
IT'S THE GHOST OF A LITTLE GIRL. IT'S YOUR FIRST GHOST, MASTER THOMA


PAT
PAT
ASSUMING THE USUAL BECAUSE SHE'S A LITTLE GIRL, SHE'LL BE HAPPY AS LONG AS IT'S FANCY.


YEAH
MASTER THOMA, ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE A FUNERAL HAT?
FUNERAL HATS ARE FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T MOVE, SO MAKING A HAT FOR HER SHOULD ALSO BE EASY
AIR
ALL THAT'S NEEDED IS GOOD TASTE


HUH?
...IT'S WEIRD
AHEM


SO ASSUMING THE USUAL WON'T WORK?
..."THE USUAL WORK" GOES HAND-IN-HAND WITH MASS PRODUCTION!!
A HATTER WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS UNLESS HE SHOWS "SPIRIT"
.....
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?
YELLOW
BECAUSE MOMMY'S HAIR IS YELLOW.
I SEE.
SWIP!
ALL RIGHT!
REMEMBER HOW MOTHER DID IT
AMAZ-ING
MASTER THOMA IS EARNESTLY MAKING A HAT...
WHAT KIND OF HAT WOULD SUIT THIS LITTLE GIRL?


THERE YOU GO
IT'S DONE


OH, IT'S THE NEXT GHOST!
I SUP-POSE.
MASTER THOMAS, SO YOU CAN MAKE HATS LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO


Sunflow-ers! How Cute!!
THANK YOU!
GOOD-BYE!


SIR, WHAT IS YOUR HOBBY?
I LIKE TO SING.
ALL RIGHT, THEN I'LL MAKE ONE FOR PLAYING IN A BAND
SOMEHOW IT SEEMS LIKE MASTER THOMA IS ENJOYING HIMSELF MORE THAN USUAL..
A SPARKLING MASTER THOMA, HOW DISGUSTING
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT..
2 Days Later
MASTER THOMA,
YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT SINCE YOU STARTED ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE I JUST HAVE TO GET THROUGH ONE MORE DAY..
WHEEZE WHEEZE


WHY ARE YOU NOW MAKING HATS FOR NOBILITY?
BUT MASTER THOMA, YOU CAN ACTUALLY MAKE HATS THE WAY THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MADE, YET
I'VE BEEN DOING IT
BECAUSE I CANNOT DO WITHOUT MONEY.


REALLY?
THE TRUTH IS, MY MOTHER WAS A SKILLED FUNERAL HATTER
BUT REGARDLESS OF SKILL, SHE WAS POOR
WHEN IT CAME TO WORK, SHE WAS STUBBORN
BECAUSE SHE NEVER CUT CORNERS, SHE NEVER SKIMPED ON THE MATERIALS, SO OF COURSE, SHE WAS ALWAYS IN THE RED
SHE WORKED NON-STOP
THEREFORE, TO EAT AND BE SELF-SUFFICIENT,


WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WAS PROUD OF MY MOTHER.
AFTER I STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL,
IS IT BECAUSE HE'S THE SON OF A FUNERAL HATTER?
REALLY?
HE'S DESCENDED FROM SLAVES
NO WONDER HIS CLOTHES ARE DIRTY.
OF COURSE.
I BECAME THE TARGET OF BULLYING
LOUVEIL CAPRA THE BEST HATTER IN THE CAPITAL...
IS THIS YEAR'S RICHEST MAN?!
SEVERAL YEARS LATER WHILE I WAS IN TOWN, I HAPPENED TO GET MY HANDS ON A LEAFLET
WHAT STRANGE HATS....
BUT ARE HATS LIKE THESE WHAT RICH PEOPLE WANT?


MOM, LOOK AT THIS!!
LET'S MAKE SOME HATS LIKE THESE!! RIGHT NOW IN THE CAPITAL THESE ARE SELLING FOR HIGH PRICES.
HOW DISGUSTING! AREN'T THOSE JUST TRIFLES FOR THE RICH?
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE TRIFLES, THEY ARE MAGNIFICENT ITEMS THAT PEOPLE WANT...
I'M FED UP WITH LIVING IN A BACKWOODS LIKE THIS,
BEING POOR, AND GETTING LOOKED DOWN UPON!!
NOBODY LOOKS DOWN ON ME!! THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE DEAD I MAKE HATS FOR ARE GRATEFUL TO ME.
ISN'T THAT ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF SOCIETY?!!
ENOUGH! SINCE THAT LOUVEIL FELLOW IS YOUR HERO, THEN YOU SHOULD GO BE HIS APPRENTICE!!
SWIP!
YEAH, I'LL GET HIM TO LET ME!


I RECEIVED NOTIFICATION THAT MY MOTHER HAD DIED IN AN ACCIDENT
BUT SOON AFTER,
AND I BECAME LOUVEIL'S APPRENTICE.
HEATED WORDS BECAME RETALIATION.
BY THE TIME I ARRIVED SHE WAS ALREADY BURIED
IT TOOK SEVERAL DAYS TO GET THERE.
I WENT BACK AS FAST AS I COULD BUT
I WAS TOO LATE. I WANTED TO AT LEAST PUT ONE FLOWER ON HER HAT,
BECAUSE MY MOM LOVED FLOWERS.
IT SEEMS SHE WORE THE CHEAPEST FUNERAL HAT MADE BY A HATTER IN A NEIGHBORING TOWN.
POOR PEOPLE'S LAST MOMENTS ARE SO MISERABLE.
BUT I REFUSE TO BE LIKE THAT,
BECAUSE I'M NOT LIKE MY MOTHER.
.....


Day 3, 11 o'clock
MASTER THOMA IN AN HOUR IT WILL BE THREE DAYS
YOU SHOULD HURRY
I KNOW
WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE OUTSIDE I'M SURE THE EXIT IS CLOSE BY...
THERE! IT'S DONE!!
WOW! IT'S BEAUTIFUL. THANK YOU!
ALL RIGHT, TO THE NEXT GHOST! HURRY!!
SHFF SHFF
DASH! DASH!
YES, SIR!!

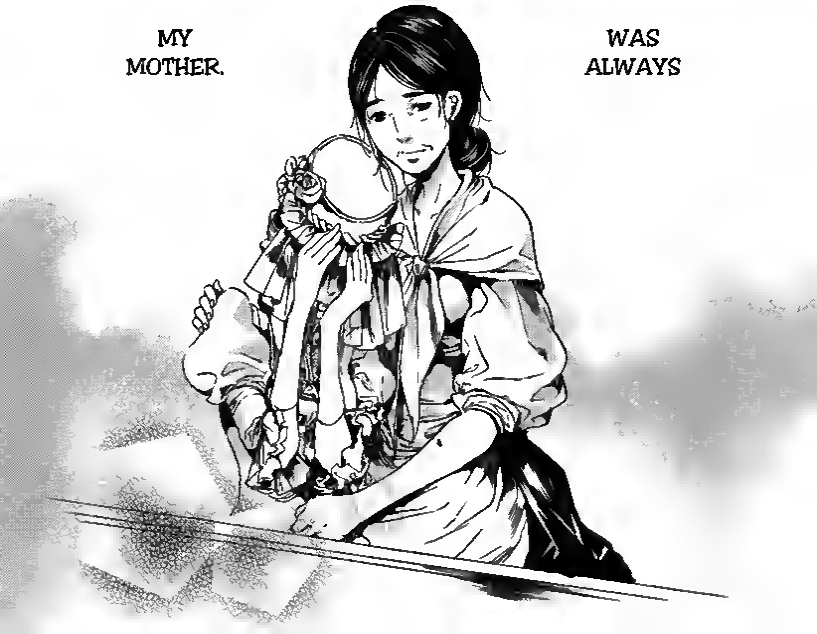

AT LAST, IT'S THE EXIT!! THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY MORE GHOSTS THE GOAL...
!!
THE OUT-SIDE!!
?!!
SIX GHOSTS!!
...WHAT AWFUL TIMING!
THERE ARE ONLY 30 MINUTES LEFT AND THERE ARE SIX GHOSTS.
...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MASTER THOMA?
UH...
YEAH...
DO NOT WORRY, YOUNG MAN

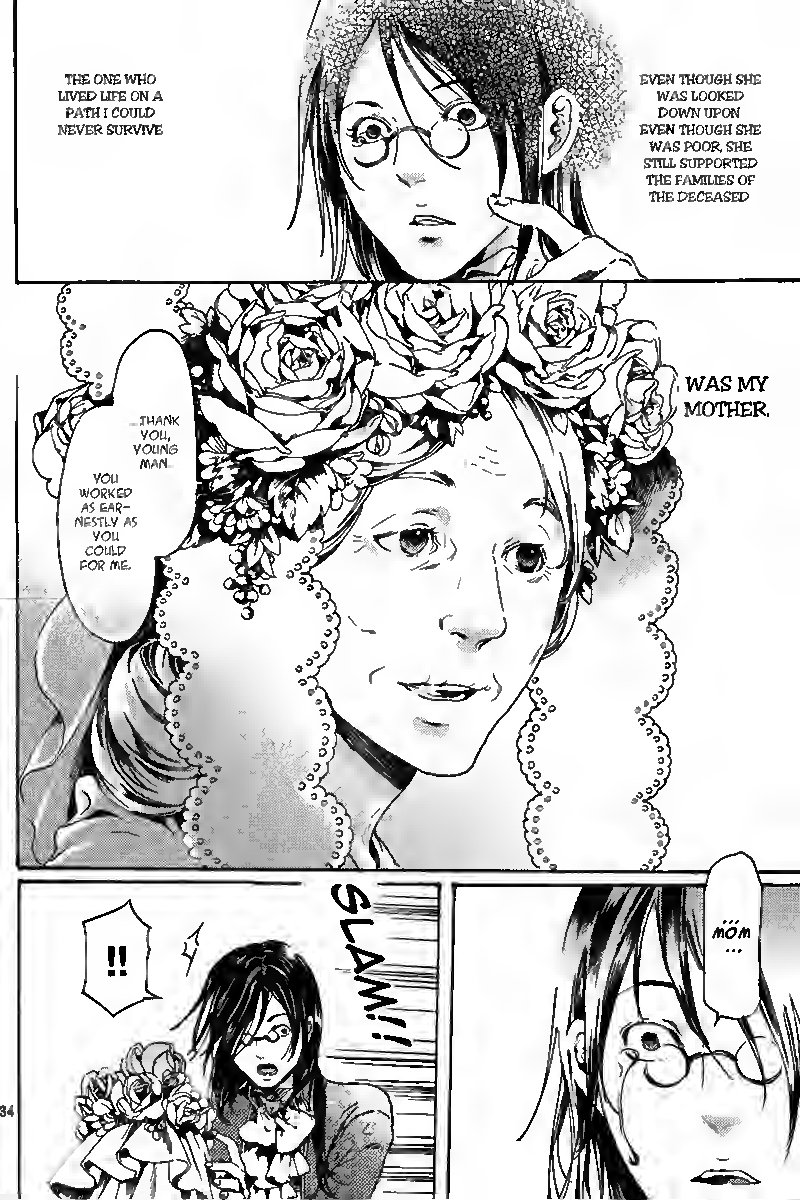

YES WE'RE FINE WITH HOW THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW LEAVE US AND GO OUTSIDE
IT'S TOO LATE FOR US. WE CAN'T WEAR BEAUTIFUL HATS
WE ARE SEXTUPLETS WE ARE ALREADY SAD OLD LADIES
HUH?
MOM?
HOORAY! WE CAN LEAVE, MASTER THOMA!!
A COINCIDENCE...
OH, WE JUST HAPPEN TO LOOK LIKE HER
WHAT?
YOU'RE OLDER IN SUCCESSION THAN MY MOTHER, BUT YOU ALL LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE HER
THE SIX OF YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY MOTHER


BUT THIS FACE IS MY MOTHER'S.
IT'S VERY MUCH MY MOTHER'S.
YES, IT'S TRUE
SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE ALWAYS...
I'VE ALWAYS...!!
FINE. I'M MAKING A HAT!!
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A COINCIDENTAL RESEMBLANCE.
SHFF!
WAIT, MASTER THOMAS!
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE SIX HATS?! YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK REALLY FAST SINCE THERE ARE ONLY 20 MINUTES LEFT!!
DOLCHELLE, YOU GO ON AHEAD OUTSIDE.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF
WALKING AWAY FROM THIS JOB.


Yes, I'm already outside, so please knock your self out
AH, SO... THAT'S HOW IT IS
WHATEVER. I'LL HURRY
.....
MASTER THOMA, HOW CAN YOU SAY YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR MOTHER?
INDEED, YOU'RE JUST LIKE HER.
HAVE YOU THOUGHTLESSLY REFUSED ANY WORK OVER THESE PAST THREE DAYS?
... SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
THERE'S NO HELPING IT
I TRULY WANTED TO WORK LIKE LOLIVEIL, SO I BECAME HIS APPRENTICE,
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I LOOKED UP TO HIM.


"SINCE THAT LOUVEIL FELLOW IS YOUR HERO,
THEN YOU SHOULD GO BE HIS APPRENTICE!!"
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON
I'VE EVER ADMIRED
MY ONLY HERO
THANK YOU
IT'S LIKE WHEN MY HUSBAND WAS HEALTHY


MY MOTHER.
WAS ALWAYS


THE ONE WHO LIVED LIFE ON A PATH I COULD NEVER SURVIVE
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS LOOKED DOWN UPON EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS POOR, SHE STILL SUPPORTED THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED
WAS MY MOTHER.
...THANK YOU, YOUNG MAN.
YOU WORKED AS EARNESTLY AS YOU COULD FOR ME.
MÖM ...
SLAM!!!
!!


THE EXIT DISAP-PEARED!!
DID I RUN OUT OF TIME?
.....
...I'M FIN-ISHED..
INDEED, YOU ARE.
WAH!
PAT!
AUGH! DOLCHELLE, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I COULDN'T LEAVE
AS I'M ALWAYS SAYING,
I'M GOING
TO BECOME YOUR WIFE
HUH?
MY MIND'S BEEN MADE SINCE THE TIME YOU PICKED ME UP FROM THE SLUMS WHEN I WAS AT MY LOWEST

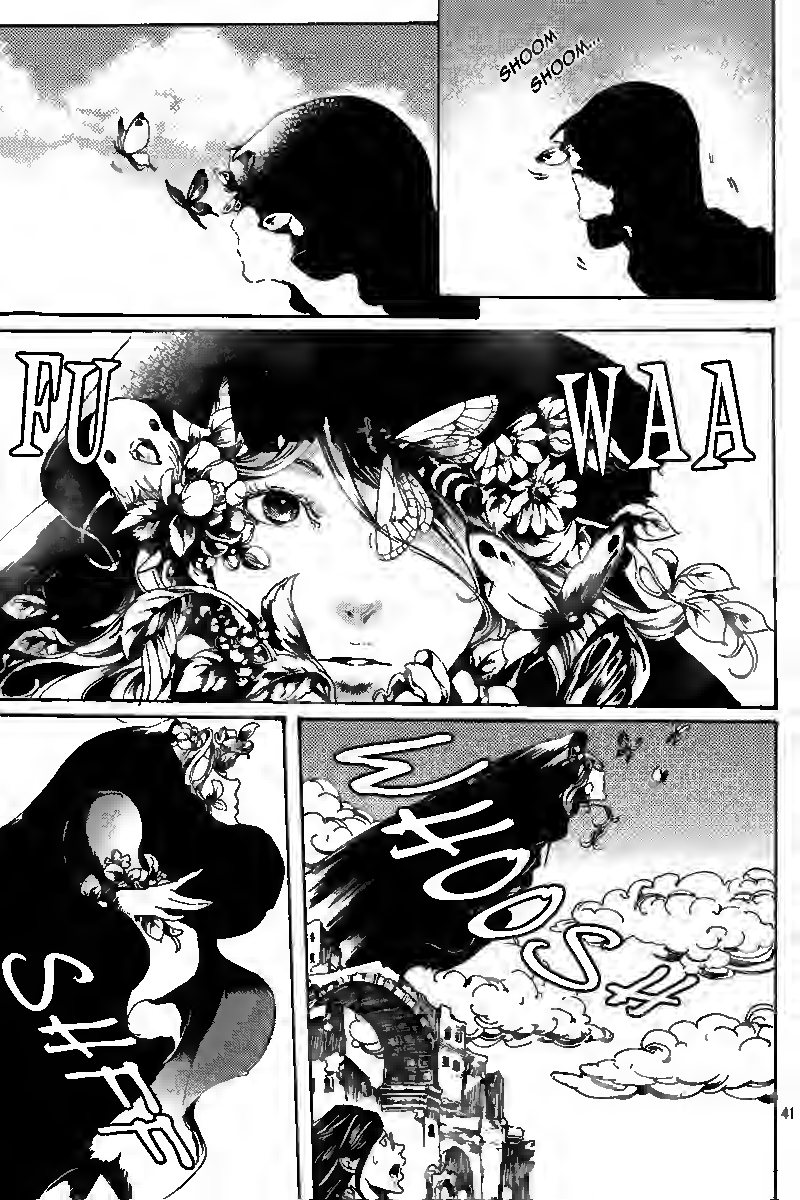

THANK YOU, YOUNG MAN.
YOU... WERE SERIOUS?!
YES, IT WAS BECAUSE WE HAD GROWN TOO OLD AND BECAME INELIGIBLE TO WEAR HATS.
IT'S BEEN SEVERAL DECADES SINCE WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO WEAR HATS LIKE THESE.
DO YOU WISH TO BE ABLE TO LEAVE?
YOUNG MAN, IN GRATITUDE I SHALL GRANT YOU ONE WISH.
The old ladies youth was restored?!
WHAT?


HUH?!
GHOSTS CAN GRANT WISHES?!
WHAT'S THIS? DO YOU THINK WE'RE GHOSTS?
TEE HEE HEE! WHAT A GROSS MISUNDER-STANDING!
COME NOW, TODAY AT LAST IS THE DAY OF THE SPRING FESTIVAL
LOOK
SNAP!
!!
THE RUINS ARE CRUM-BLING!!
MASTER THOMA, ABOVE! ABOVE! ABOVE!
!!
WHOOSH
THE GHOSTS!!


THEY'RE CROSSING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOREST!


Whoosh...
Fuwaa
HEE HEE!
ARE THEY INCARNATIONS OF PLANTS?!
THE GHOSTS' HATS TURNED INTO FLOWERS!!


THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG CAN RECEIVE BEAUTIFUL HATS TO WEAR.
AND
YOU SEE, WE GATHER HERE EACH YEAR BEFORE SPRING
YOU ALL CALL THEM "FLOWERS", RIGHT?
IN AUTUMN THE HATS FALL.
HUH?
SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM
MASTER THOMAS! LOOK ABOVE!!
...WHAT ARE YOU LADIES.?
RUINS' MASTER IS GROWING LARGER!!
SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM
THE R...

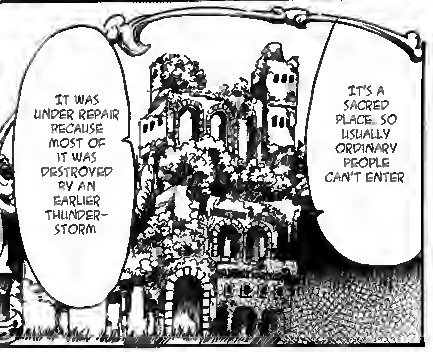

SHOOM
SHOOM...
FU.
WAA
SHAA
NOOSH

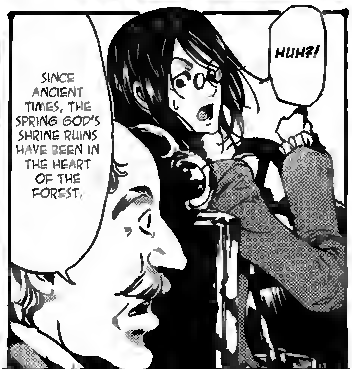





Can I hitch a ride?
A PEASANT PASSING ON THE WAY SAID...
OH... LADDIES,
VROOM...
SO YOU WERE IN THE SPRING GOD'S SHRINE.


WHEN I CAME TO
WE WERE AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST WITH THE CAR WE HAD BEEN EJECTED FROM.


IT WAS UNDER REPAIR BECAUSE MOST OF IT WAS DESTROYED BY AN EARLIER THUNDER-STORM.
IT'S A SACRED PLACE... SO USUALLY ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN'T ENTER


HUH?!
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THE SPRING GOD'S SHRINE RUINS HAVE BEEN IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST.


I WONDER IF YOU HELPED THEM
PERHAPS THE GOD COULDN'T LEAVE BECAUSE THE SHRINE WAS DAMAGED
I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT THAT SINCE I'M ALREADY LATE.
BEYOND THAT, I'M THINKING ABOUT MAKING FUNERAL HATS FROM TIME TO TIME.
I WONDER IF THAT'S SO
VROOM...
JUST KIDDING! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING
...BY THE WAY, MASTER THOMA, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER THIS?
ARE YOU GOING TO THE KING'S CASTLE FROM HERE?


YES.
THAT IS TO SAY, I'M A GENTLE-MAN TO THE CORE.
BUT I'M NOT REMAK-ING MYSELF
WELL, IF A FAMOUS HATTER SUCH AS MYSELF MADE FUNERAL HATS, WOULDN'T THE STIGMA FADE?
WHAT?!
YOU ARE QUITE GEN-TLE-MANLY.
AS YOU ARE NOW.
EH?
VROOM...
SO THE ROW OF SIX TREES THAT LINE THE ROAD BLOOMED THIS YEAR, IT SEEMS
Oh!
WH-WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY? HEY? JUST NOW?


THEY WERE OLD TREES THAT HAD BEEN DEADWOOD FOR DECADES
IT'S SAID WHEN THOSE TREES BLOOM, THEY WILL GRANT A SINGLE WISH
OH!
COULD THEY BE
THOSE OLD LADIES?!


IT WASN'T A DREAM, WAS IT?
OR RATHER, I MISUNDERSTOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE FROM THAT WEIRD RUMOR YOU TOLD ME.
BUT IT'S A WELL-KNOWN RUMOR
MASTER THOMA, AT LAST YOU WERE ABLE TO REPAIR THE BOND WITH YOUR MOTHER, RIGHT?
!
YOU WERE ABLE TO PUT FLOWERS IN YOUR MOTHER'S FUNERAL HAT, RIGHT?
AMAZING! MASTER THOMA HELPED THE GOD OF SPRING!
I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER'S HAT IS NOW LIKE
SO MANY FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING!
A HILL IN SPRING TIME!

Tempted to a wondrous world with overwhelmingly powerful imagery.

END

Omari's Sister Translations



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